Police 'chokepoints' to sprout all over Metro Monday

Story on PAGE A2

GMA makes pitch to LP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GOING OUT of her way to court the Liberal Party, one of the oldest political parties in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made the cross-town trek from Malacañang to North Greenhills, to the home of Senate President Franklin Drilon, the new LP chair.

The President's visit at 5:45 p.m. was supposed to be open to the media, but a

GMA/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHILE she may not have won, Miss Philippines Ma. Rafaela V. Yunon did the country proud by placing in the top five of the Miss World contest held last night in Hainan, China. Miss Ireland was crowned Miss World. REUTERS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph December 7, 2003 ★★★ 124 pages / 16 sections / vol. 18 / no. 362 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Only kidnappers to die

19 DAYS TO CHRISTENDOM'S BEST LOVED FEAST
The Nativity scene, this one at the Farmers' Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City, is always a faithful portrait of what Christmas is all about: A celebration of one silent, holy night in the little town of Bethlehem of humility, joy, peace, and love beyond all telling. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

First to go sentenced at least a year ago

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

ONLY CONVICTED kidnappers, and not all death row convicts such as rapists and drug dealers, will be subjected to a public execution, Malacañang clarified yesterday.

The clarification further reinforced criticism that President Macapagal-Arroyo's lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty was intended to appease the Chinese-Filipino community, which had expressed its anger over the government's seeming inability to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

"[The lifting of the moratorium] is only for those convicted of kidnap-for-ransom activities," said Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. "[For] those who are not kidnappers, we recommended a reprieve."

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida also said "it would be better" if convicted kidnappers were executed first.

"[The kidnapping problem] is the reason for all this clamor for the lifting of the moratorium," he said.

Romulo said that the decision to limit the death penalty to kidnappers was part of a "process," and that it was not reached upon the prodding of the Chinese-Filipino community or in consultation with the Church.

The President's announcement Friday that she would no longer block judicial executions drew flak from various groups. An anti-death penalty advocate said Ms Macapagal's move appeared to be

ONLY/ A19

FPJ is opposition coalition's official candidate

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FRACTIOUS search for the opposition presidential standard-bearer ended at dusk yesterday with the selection of popular movie star Fernando Poe Jr. by a coalition of opposition parties consisting of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, PDP-Laban and the Puwersa ng Masa.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who chaired the five-man nominating committee appointed by the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, made the announcement at a press conference at the New World Hotel in Makati attended by LDP president Edgardo Angara, Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III and officials of the three political parties.

Enrile said his committee had no choice but to declare Poe the de facto presidential candidate of the coalition after Sen. Panfilo Lacson chose to get out of the "selection process" when he had himself proclaimed a presidential candidate by an LDP faction last Thursday.

"Because there is only one person left [to seek the nomination] with the coalition, the committee is duty-bound to recognize this fact. We will consider FPJ as the person who is going to be the standard-bearer of the opposition," said Enrile.

Enrile said opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Gregorio Honasan, who had earlier asked to be considered, had shown "disinterest" in pursuing their presidential ambitions.

He said the coalition would make the formal announcement of the candidacy of Poe, widely known as "Da King" or "FPJ," on

FPJ/ A17

Out of the ashes, Iligan rises to fulfill a mission

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ILIGAN CITY is the envy of other cities, having the lowest crime rate in the region.

It wasn't always so.

Purok Santelmo in Barangay Saray of Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, was notorious for harboring elements from the underworld.

The cramped houses along winding alleyways were perfect hiding places for drug traffickers, thieves and fugitives who lived side by side with the children of some 300 families, most of whom were out of school.

Then on Sept. 28, 2002, the eve of the Iligan City fiesta, a fire broke out, leaving 258 families homeless.

It could have been the final nail on the coffin for the residents of Purok Santelmo. But what the city did next led to its winning the 10th Gawad Galing Pook, one of 18 LGU programs, which received the award yesterday at the Palace.

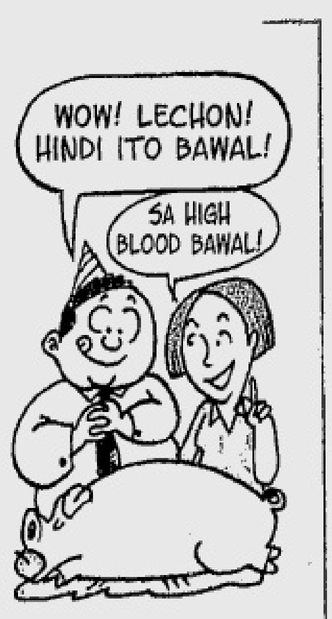
No less than United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledged Iligan City as having made "a novel and significant contribution in the poverty alleviation efforts of the Philippines."

The tragedy brought to life the dying "bayanihan" spirit of the residents, the private sector, nongovernment organizations and the local government units. They all paved the way for the country's biggest integrated social and housing program, dubbed the Missionville project.

Iligan Mayor Franklin M. Quijano led the campaign to pool funds and resources to relocate the squatter-families, taking his cue from the success of the Gawad Kalinga program of the Couples for Christ.

President Macapagal-Arroyo granted the Couples for Christ

OUT/ A18



WOW! LECHON! HINDI ITO BAWAL!
SA HIGH BLOOD BAWAL!

Graft-free Christmas parties urged

By Volt Contreras and Margaux Ortiz

A GRAFT-free and hassle-free Christmas season to all!

Guidelines for holiday decorum were issued yesterday for two sectors: government workers nationwide, and cab drivers in the central business district (CBD) of Makati.

The Civil Service Commission directed govern-

GRAFT-FREE/ A17

This web designer knows only 'this ability'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE any other office employee, 26-year-old Juan Benedicto "Dickoy" Magdaraog wakes up at 6:30 in the morning to make sure that he gets to work by 9.

And yet his office is just beside his bedroom.

Stricken with Acid Maltase Deficiency or Pompe Disease, a rare genetic metabolic disorder that affects only about 10,000 worldwide, Dickoy takes that much time because his muscles have been so weakened that he cannot even climb out of bed without assistance.

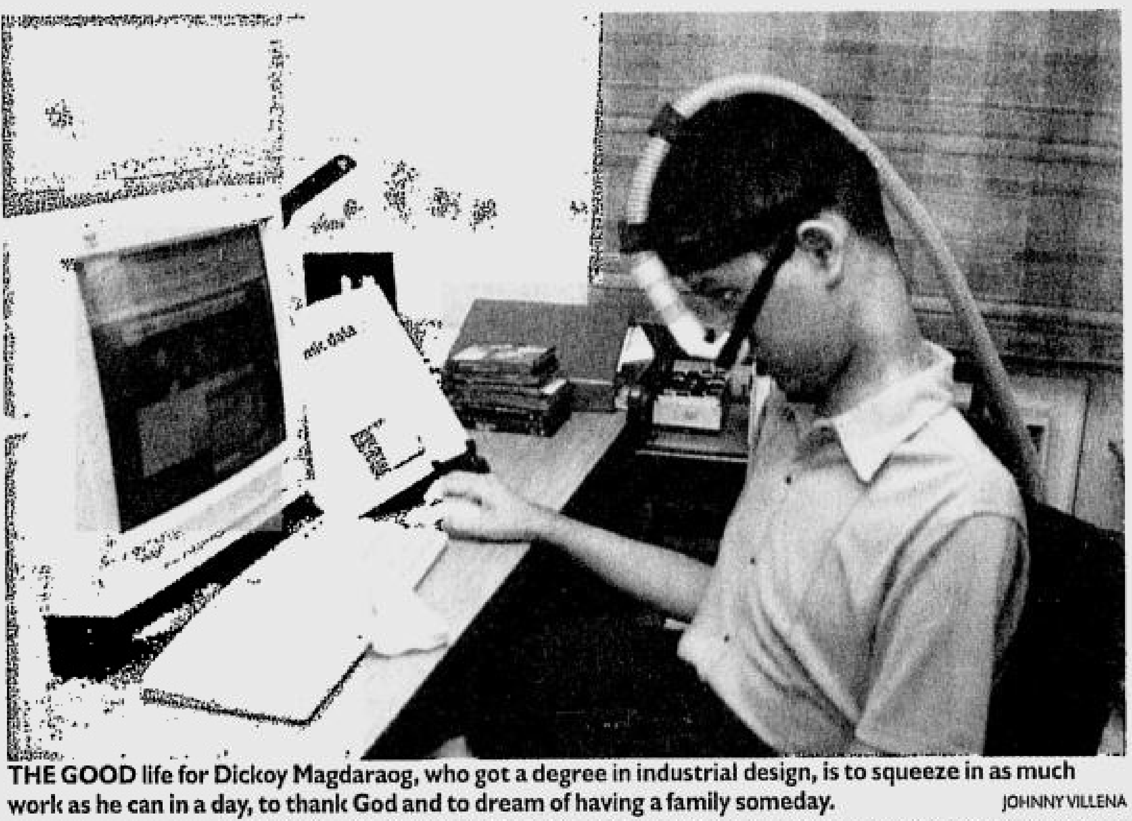
He needs somebody to help him remove his ventilator to allow him to bathe, sometimes shave, and then get dressed. He also has to go through a series of stretching exercises to maintain flexibility in his leg and arm muscles.

By the time his morning routine is over, it's almost 9 a.m.—time to start his work as a web designer.

People like Dickoy who have the progressive and often fatal Pompe Disease are born with deficient amounts of the enzyme that breaks down excess glycogen. Because of the lack of this precious enzyme, the glycogen that should have been converted to energy is accumulated in the muscles and eventually impairs muscle function.

The onset of the symptoms varies. Afflicted children experi-

THIS/ A17



THE GOOD life for Dickoy Magdaraog, who got a degree in industrial design, is to squeeze in as much work as he can in a day, to thank God and to dream of having a family someday. JOHNNY VILLENA

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers mostly over the eastern sections.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY:CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/12/07/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

'Chokepoints' sprout Monday

By TJ Burgonio

MORE THAN 10,000 policemen will be "hitting the streets" of Metro Manila tomorrow as government launches its three-pronged plan to curb kidnapping and high-profile crimes.

They will be manning "chokepoints," or stationary checkpoints, and conducting mobile checkpoints in the 11 so-called corridors leading to Metro Manila amid orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo for police to "walk the beat" and establish more outposts to arrest the rash of kidnappings of mostly Chinese-Filipinos.

Starting at 8 a.m., the policemen will be working round-the-clock in three shifts to stop and inspect vehicles for the purpose of "neutralizing crime suspects and preempting crimes," said Police Director Ricardo de Leon, the newly appointed director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

'All systems go'

De Leon said it was "all systems go" for the setting up of the stationary and mobile checkpoints which will operate in 11 major roads leading to Metro Manila.

He declined to identify the 11 roads for security reasons.

The President yesterday claimed that the authorities were winning the battle against the wave of kidnappings, which led her to lift a suspension on executions after a four-year lull.

In her weekly radio message, Ms Macapagal recounted a week of killings, drug busts and unmasking scoundrels in uniform, while underscoring the gains in her administration's fight to restore law and order, a primary issue in next May's presidential election.

"Our strategy is succeeding and our patrol operators are generating positive results. We have stopped the rise in criminality and we will continue with our work to maintain peace and order," the President said.

The President stepped up anti-crime efforts, gave in to the clamor to re-impose the death penalty and ordered a reorganization of the Philippine National Police during a week in which new survey results showed her ranking poorly among presidential aspirants amid mounting public concern over the breakdown in law and order.

Persons of integrity

"We are continuing the reorganization of the police force in order to strengthen the campaign in fighting against heinous crimes. We are cleaning the ranks of policemen to ensure that only persons of integrity would remain in the organization," she said.

Aside from criminality, the President also highlighted the gains made against corruption, noting that revenue collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs had risen largely because of lifestyle checks on top officials.

Problems of peace and order and corruption have edged out economic concerns among the issues that business executives want the next administration to tackle.

The 10,000 policemen, who will all come from the NCRPO, will have backup from the military's National Capital Region Command, Metro Manila Development Authority and Traffic Management Group, among other agencies.

Two-hundred soldiers from the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion will help police to man the checkpoints while another 100 Marines will join in conducting patrols, said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the military chief information officer.

'Pounding the beat'

Apart from conducting choke points and checkpoints, an undetermined number of policemen will be "pounding the beat" to increase police visibility, accompanied by MMDA personnel and barangay *tanod* (watchmen).

"More policemen will be hitting the streets," said De Leon. He said some 258 motorcycle-riding policemen would be deployed as a "reaction team" in case a kidnapping or a high-profile crime takes place.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), allayed public fears that the checkpoints would lead to abuse.

"They will conduct these with utmost courtesy, but they will be firm in implementing the guidelines of the Naktaf," he said in a phone interview. The policemen and soldiers will be carrying only short firearms, he said.

"We urge the public to cooperate, we're doing this for them," he said.

On the lookout

Vehicles with heavily tinted windows and questionable plates will be singled out for random checks since they are the type most often used by kidnappers who sometimes wear the uniforms of the armed services.

"We'll be on the lookout for suspicious-looking vehicles, especially those without plates. Vehicles with armed men will be stopped and inspected," Naktaf chief Angelo Reyes told dzRH radio.

The head of a Filipino-Chinese civic group said the Naktaf's reward system for suspected kidnappers seemed to be helping in the anti-kidnapping drive.

'Too early'

"It's too early to tell, but it seems to be helping. The little things that we do will always help," said Joaquin Sy, president of the Kaisa para sa Kaunlaran and a member of the Chinese-Filipino peace and order coordinating council.

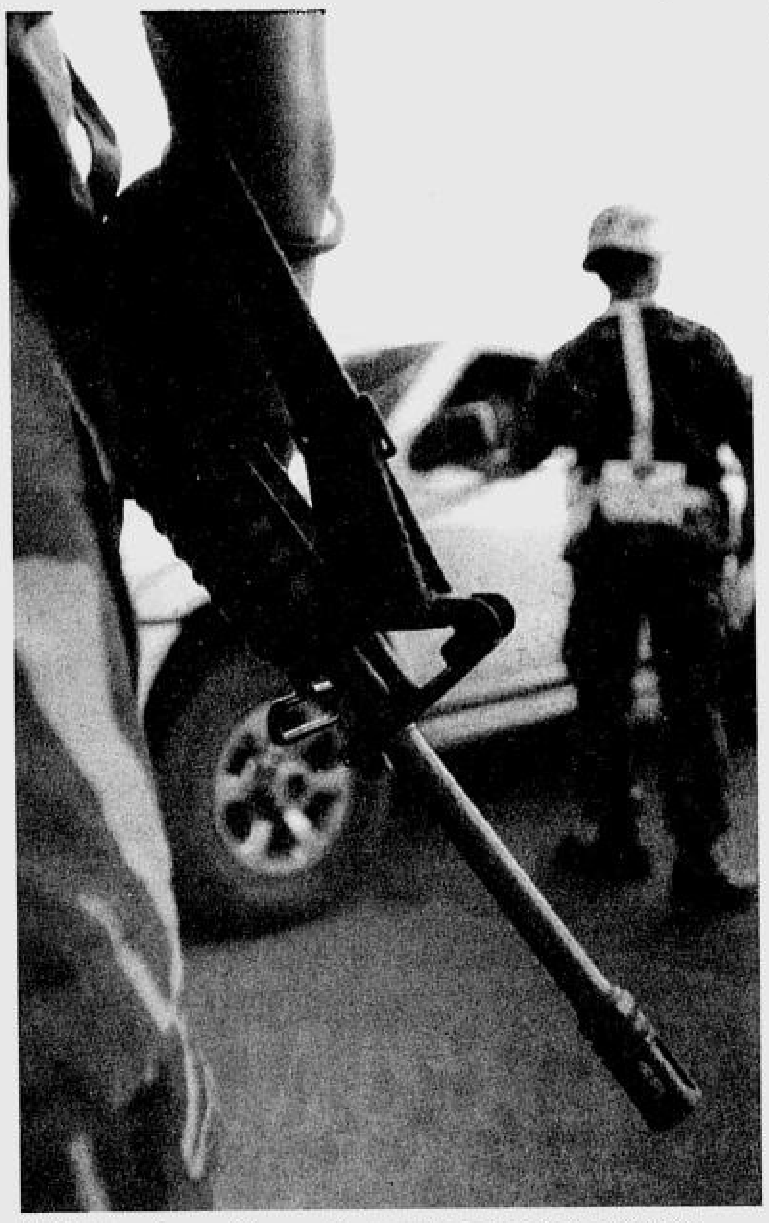
Since the Naktaf distributed posters of 10 alleged kidnap gang leaders and members with their corresponding rewards last week, Allan Niegas of the Waray-Waray gang and Vilmor Catamco of the Pegarido kidnap gang have been arrested.

Reyes said that starting next week the Naktaf would be taking out newspaper ads listing kidnap suspects and the cash bounties.

The Naktaf will be providing some 30 personnel to the Western Police District to help man the Manila checkpoints but WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said Manila policemen would still be the primary force in the city's checkpoints.

He said no military personnel would be sent to help as the city is not under grave threat.

Bulaong said special attention would be given to checkpoints in the city's five "protected" areas of Divisoria, Quiapo, Binondo, the corner of Quirino Ave. and Osmeña Highway, and the tourist belt. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan and Margaux Ortiz*



FILE photo shows military police manning a checkpoint in Metro Manila at the height of a red alert last September. The public can expect similar 'chokepoints' beginning tomorrow. JOAN BONDOC

Officers hit PMA bias in revamp

HARDLY had the dust settled in the infighting among top officials of the Philippine National Police, triggered by a major revamp, when a new group of middle-level police officers surfaced yesterday to join the fray.

A group calling itself the Police ROTC Graduates for Integrity, Morality and Order (Primo) decried the alleged monopoly of key PNP posts by alumni of the Philippine Military Academy.

"It is all bad leadership, Madame President. If the key positions in the PNP remain to be a permanent PMAyer domain, discontent will grow into resentment, resentment into enmity, and enmity into hostility. We know it. We feel it," Primo said in a full-page advertisement in the INQUIRER.

Primo bared its strong sentiments on the ongoing PNP revamp a day after PNP Chief Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Police Director Eduardo Matillano patched up their differences in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Monopoly

Director Lucas Managuelod, Primo president, said the same monopoly by PMAyers was replicated in the recent revamp which stirred a furor among the 32 officials affected, including Matillano.

"We are always being left out," he said in a phone interview, pointing out that only a few Primo members were included in the reorganization. "We can lay our cards side by side with them; and we can even say, some of us are better."

In its ad, Primo noted that all national support units, except for four, and all the regional offices, except in Regions 7, 8, 12, Caraga and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, are headed by PMA alumni.

Managuelod, who was relieved in November last year due to his perceived closeness to opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, further charged that the selection of a police official for a post was often influenced by politics.

'Too much politics'

"There's too much politics. Even the assignment of the lowliest police officer is marred by politics. We want professionalism to reign in the PNP," he said.

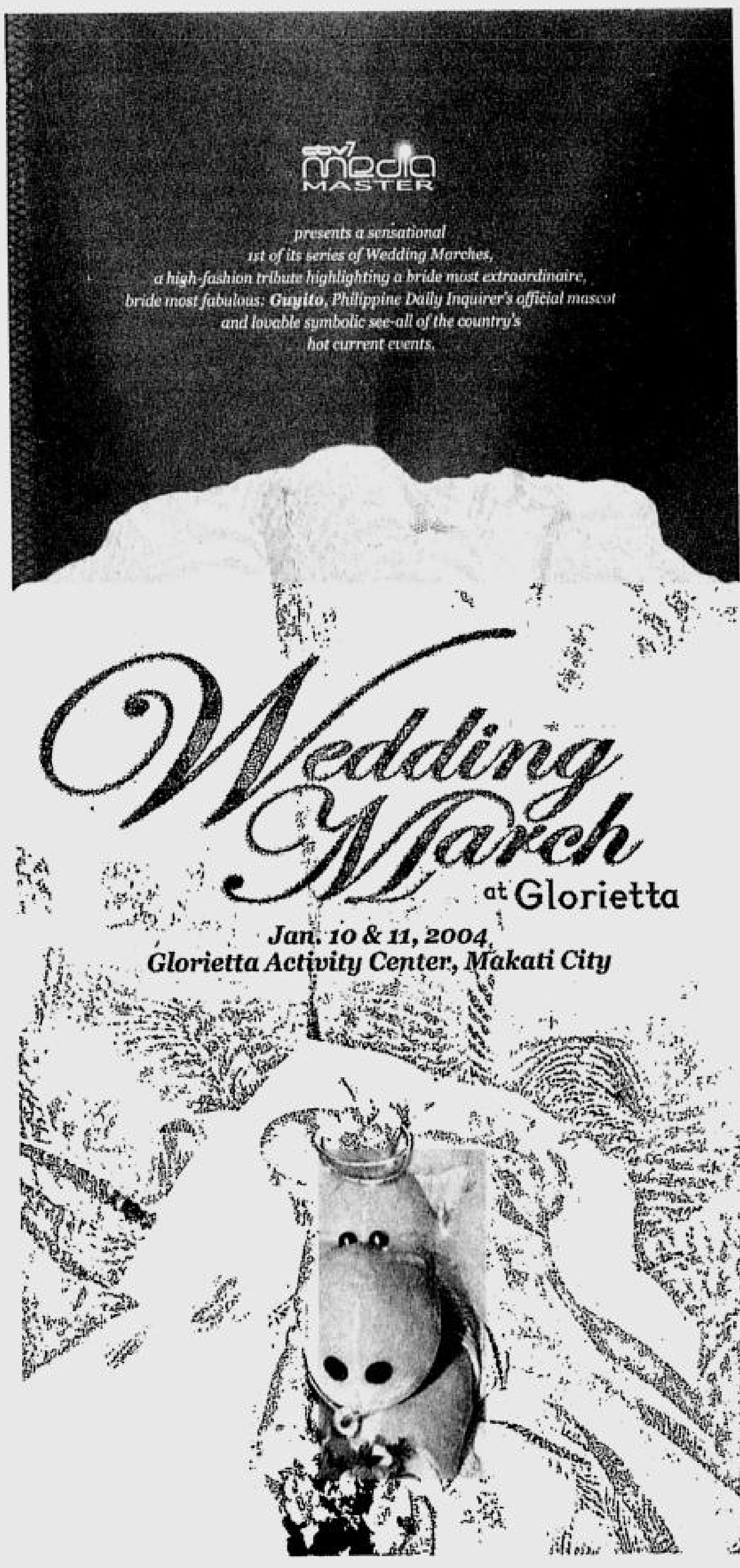
Primo decided to publish the manifesto a month after getting no response from Ebdane, retired Gen. Orlando Macaspac, presidential adviser for police affairs, and Lynda-Hornilla of the National Police Commission, according to Managuelod.

Ebdane, Macaspac and Hornilla were presented with the same manifesto on the first week of November, he said.

But Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, new police chief information officer, denied Managuelod's claims, maintaining that the selection of an official for any position was based on the merit system, and not the source of his commission.

"We have a system of choosing the right person for the right position," he said in a phone interview, adding: "Peemayers are not monopolizing the key posts."

Goltiao, however, admitted that the posts where politics come into play were those of a provincial director or town police chief since these require prior approval by the governor or mayor, respectively. *TJ Burgonio*



Media Master
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Wedding March at Glorietta
Jan. 10 & 11, 2004
Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City

FEATURING

- *On Exhibit*
  Guyito in Haute Couture bridal gowns by 10 of the Philippines' top fashion designers: Ben Farrales, Inno Sotto, Patis Tesoro, Eddie Baddeo, Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Frederick Peralta, Jojie Lloren, Bobby Novenario and Eric Pineda
- *Dress-Up Guyito Wedding March Contest*
  In cooperation with Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the major activities of this event is this competition to dress up Guyito, PDI's official mascot. Please see contest mechanics below.
- *Accoustic Night*
  A free concert featuring: Jimmy Bondoc, Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante and Nina
- *Raffle Draws*
  Open to suppliers/exhibitors and couples/guests
- *Wedding & Trade Fair Exhibit*
  Showcasing the country's most prominent establishments

Dress Up Guyito Wedding March Contest Mechanics:

1. The contest is open to all aspiring amateur designers 18 years old and above.
2. One pair of Guyito doll entitles a contestant to one entry form. The dolls must be purchased by the contestant starting Dec. 1 to Dec. 26, 2003 from the Philippine Daily Inquirer main office at:
   Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
   Don Chino Roces Avenue
   cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
   Each pair costs P350.00. A contestant may submit as many entries as he/she wants.
3. The contest theme is "Guyito's Wedding March". A contestant is tasked to dress up the doll pair in wedding ensembles (as bride and groom) of his/her own design. No perimeters shall be set with the design.
4. Criteria for judging will be based on the following: Relevance to Theme (30%), Originality (30%) and Creativity (40%). Officers from Philippine Daily Inquirer and [illegible] Media Master will be present during the judging of the contest.
5. Deadline for submission of entries is on Dec. 29, 2003, 9am to 6pm at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Head Office Marketing Department. Look for Hazel Seriego and Mussy Cabuhat.
6. Judging date will be on January 5, 2004 at Philippine Daily Inquirer main office in Don Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 2pm. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the selection of the winners.
7. Winners will be notified thru phone, registered mail and will also be published in Philippine Daily Inquirer.
8. All winning entries shall automatically become the exclusive property of PDI and may be used, copied, reproduced into any size or medium for exhibition, advertising, promotion, or similar purposes. All non-winning entries will be returned to the contestants after the awarding ceremonies.
9. PDI reserves and maintains all intellectual property rights.
10. Prizes as follows:
    1st prize : P15,000 cash
    2nd prize : P10,000 cash
    3rd prize : P5,000 cash
    All cash prizes are tax free.
11. All winning entries will be displayed during the Wedding March at Glorietta in Makati City on Jan. 10, 2004. Awarding will be done on Jan. 11, 2004 at 7pm. Officers from Philippine Daily Inquirer and [illegible] Media Master will be present during the awarding.
12. Winners must present any valid I.D. (driver's license, passport, or any I.D. with picture) when claiming the prize.
13. The decision of the Board of Judges of the Dress Up Guyito Wedding March Contest is final and unappealable with the concurrence of the DTI.
14. Employees of PDI, [illegible] Media Master, their advertising agency, dealers, all participating outlets and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.
15. Only entries received until Dec. 29, 2003 are qualified for the contest. A participant can send more than one entry but can only win once.
16. PDI and [illegible] Media Master reserve the right to publish or display any entry, winning or non-winning, for promotional purposes, without permission or payment of any kind to the owner of the Guyito doll.

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Event Stylist Ruchy Cuna

RP to take over Security Council presidency in June

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINES will assume the presidency of the United Nations Security Council next June, five months after being elected a non-permanent member of the powerful UN body.

Ambassador Lauro L. Baja Jr., the country's Permanent Representative to the UN, said the Philippines will be taking over the rotating presidency of the Security Council in June, and again in September 2005.

"The Philippine presidency will be the highlight of our participation in the Security Council," Baja said in a statement.

The presidency of the council rotates monthly, according to the alphabetical listing of its member states: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Philippines, with Algeria, Benin, Brazil, and Romania, was elected by the UN General Assembly in October to a two-year term as non-permanent member of the Security Council starting on Jan. 1, 2004.

The Security Council is considered the most important policymaking body of the UN because it is the only organ whose decisions are enforceable and binding among the member countries. Under the UN Charter, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Baja said Philippine participation in the Security Council will be guided by the framework and principles laid down by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her UN visit last September.

Look who's issuing travel warnings

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHO says the Philippines is always at the receiving end of travel advisories?

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday issued a warning to all Filipino tourists and overseas Filipino workers to be careful in Spain.

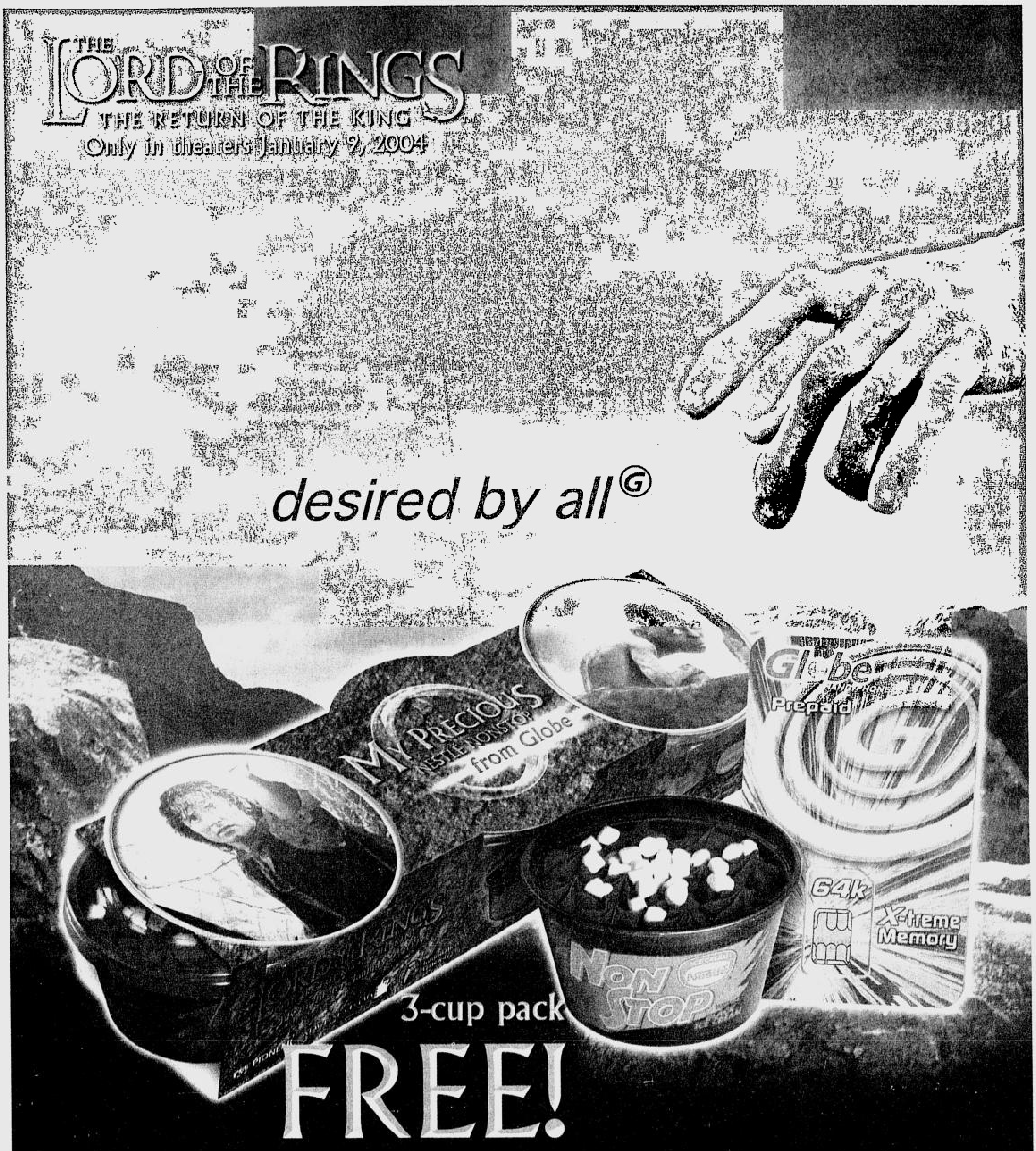
In a press statement, Ople cited an alarming increase in the number of thefts, assaults and other petty crimes committed against foreigners and elderly citizens in that country by immigrants from Eastern Europe and Northern Africa.

"I have received reports from the Philippine Embassy in Spain that (these) are most rampant in the big cities such as Madrid and Barcelona," he said.

The statement said the embassy in Madrid had distributed flyers to Filipino tourists and workers classifying the assaults into three, and detailing the modus operandi:

- Finders. Pickpockets work in teams of two or three. One holds a map in front of the victim while his co-conspirator gets busy.
- Flowers. Three or four gypsy women give the victim some flowers and then ask for a tip. When the victim fishes out his wallet, they snatch it.
- Mustard. This trick is performed also by a group of three. One squirts mustard on the victim's back, and the two others pretend to help him clean up while actually picking the victim's pockets.

The embassy warned against wearing backpacks with zippers that open easily, and advised Filipino tourists to leave their travel documents in the hotel safe.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3. Show the text message and surrender your SIM casing at any participating Odyssey outlet, Nestlé Ice Cream Parlor or Cart to get the FREE My Precious Nestlé NonStop from Globe with 3 Nestlé NonStop Black Desire cups inside. The outlet representative or cart vendor will delete the text message upon redemption.
4. For help in claiming, you can also call the Nestlé Manila Hotline at (632) 721-8714.
5. Each person can only claim a maximum of five (5) gift packs. You can redeem until March 15, 2004.
6. Employees of Globe Telecom, Nestlé Philippines, Odyssey, Harrison Communications, Inc. and Globe dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from this promo.

Promo period: Dec. 7, 2003 to Jan. 15, 2004

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3723, Series of 2003.

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Raid on Batangas mini-lab yields ₱20M in 'recycled' shabu

By Leila B. Salaverria

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday raided a mini-shabu laboratory in Batangas, seizing recycled shabu worth at least P20 million.

Arrested during the raid at a high-end subdivision in San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, was the alleged owner of the shabu lab, identified as Luisito D. Enumerable, 36, a welder, who had been convicted earlier in another drug trafficking case.

Enumerable is listed in the police's order of battle for drug suspects and is believed to be among the biggest shabu distributors in Batangas, Laguna and Cavite.

The raid on the laboratory inside a house at St. Lazarus Village was conducted on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Teodoro Tapia of the Batangas City Regional Trial Court.

The mini-shabu lab had been operating for two months before the raid. Enumerable's neighbors had also reported seeing five different vehicles regularly visiting the house since he rented it.

Lawyer Ruel Lasala, head of the NBI's anti-drug task force, said NBI and PDEA agents confiscated around 10 kilos of recycled shabu worth P20 million. The recovered shabu was both in crystal and liquid form.

Also seized in the raid were a burner, cooking pots, a dryer, bottles of ethyl alcohol, activated charcoal, plastic sachets and a digital weighing scale.

NBI agents also seized Enumerable's SUV which they believe he used to deliver or distribute the shabu.

Lasala said the confiscated materials were used to recycle low-quality shabu and turn it into a better-quality substance. A kilo of low grade shabu can be turned into half a kilo of high-quality shabu through a series of simple processes, he said. *(See story at left)*

The NBI anti-drug chief said Enumerable had admitted that he got his supply of low-grade shabu from a source at the Salam Mosque Compound in Culiat, Quezon City.

Lasala said Enumerable would be turned over to the National Bilibid Prison so he could serve his earlier sentence of 10 to 17 years for drug trafficking.

New way of cooking illegal drug alarms cops

THE RAID on a mini-shabu laboratory in Batangas has revealed a very disturbing new trend in high-grade shabu manufacturing.

To address the scarcity of high-grade shabu, drug traffickers are now using a new technique which could turn inferior shabu into a higher quality substance.

Lawyer Ruel Lasala, the drug chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, yesterday expressed the fear that the new technique which involves a few simple processes could result in the mushrooming of a "cottage industry-type" of shabu manufacturing.

Lasala said the materials used to recycle low-grade shabu—ethyl alcohol and activated charcoal—are easily available to anyone and would not elicit suspicion on those who would acquire it.

In fact, the NBI drug chief added, the new technique would allow anyone to recycle shabu even at home since a regular burner and a refrigerator are all the equipment needed for the process.

He pointed out that the new technique could pose a big problem to the government's anti-drug campaign if drug manufacturers would introduce it to the country's barangays because it could make shabu more accessible.

The recycled shabu also costs less than regular shabu, but is still being snapped up because of the low supply, Lasala added.

The scarcity in shabu, he said, was caused by the series of recent raids of laboratories.

Lasala, however, warned that the more accessible and easily manufactured recycled shabu also produces harmful side effects.

"Those who used the recycled shabu had complained of dizziness and headaches," Lasala said.
Leila B. Salaverria

GAWAD POOK RITES
Framed by the Christmas decor in the Palace, President Macapagal confers with Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela and Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano after giving out the Gawad Pook Awards for 2003 yesterday. *(See story of an awardee on Page A1.)* VAL HANDUMON

Congress caps Nat'l Press Week

SOME 500 print and broadcast journalists from all over the country will converge in Manila today for the 8th National Press Congress.

Spearheaded by the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc., the three-day summit will be attended as well by campus writers and Filipino journalists practicing abroad.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government and private sector leaders will address the congress at the Ambassador Hotel.

A round-table discussion on the challenges for the community press at 2 p.m. kicks off the summit, which is in observance of Presidential Proclamation No. 496 declaring Dec. 1 to 7 "National Press Congress Week" and the period Dec. 1 to 31 as the "Month of Pubishers, Editors, Writers, Community Journalists and Broadcasters in the Service of the Nation."

Urgent challenge

This year's theme is "The Imperatives of National Renewal and Progress: An Urgent Challenge for the Community Press."

Juan P. Dayang, PAPI president, said PAPI founding officers and regional chairmen will be awarded presidential trophies and given testimonials in recognition of their role in establishing PAPI 29 years ago.

To be honored are Kerima Polotan Tuvera, Gen. Hans M. Menzi (posthumous); Raul L. Locsin (posthumous). Juan A. Perez Jr. (posthumous), and Rosario E. Olivares, who registered PAPI as a juridical entity on Oct. 30, 1974.

Also to be honored are Roberto M. Mendoza and Sol L. Villa who served as staff executives of the publishers' association.

Founding regional chairmen-who will also receive presidential trophies of recognition during the occasion—are Oseo Hamada, Baguio Midland Courier, Region I; Claudio Cortez, Cagayan Star, Region II; Fiel Jarlego, The Tribune/Palihan, Region III; Mario S. Romero, Island Observer, Region IV; Ramon S. Tolarám, Naga Times, Region V; Aurelio Servando, Weekly Scope, Region VI; Zoilo Dejaresco, Jr. Bohol Chronicle, Region VI and VII; Armando A. Lopez Zamboanga Times, Region X; Bienvenido Cruz, Mindanao Star, Region XI; and Patricio Diaz, Mindanao Cross, Region XI.

GMA-7 talents will entertain the participants. A thanksgiving mass will be celebrated at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to be officiated by Fr. Eduardo Fernandez.

Senate bill barring jail for libel filed

By Michael Lim Ubac

A BILL to decriminalize the law on libel finally reached the Senate floor the other night after it was passed jointly by the committees on public information and mass media, and constitutional amendments.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., sponsor of Senate Bill 2688 under Committee Report 331, asked the upper chamber to immediately pass the measure protecting members of the media, as "providers of information and public watchdogs," from criminal prosecution.

In a 22-page sponsorship speech titled, "Criminal Libel: A Tool to Suppress Freedom of Expression," Pimentel underscored the importance of repealing the criminal aspect of the libel law, saying it had no place in a democratic society.

"Libel laws are now perceived worldwide as a derogation of the right to free expression," he said.

Citing historical facts, "from our own experience as a people oppressed by martial rule," the lawyer-senator said criminal prosecution for libel or defamation had been used by the government primarily as a tool to stifle free speech.

The proposed measure seeks to delete the penalty of imprisonment for those convicted of libel. This penalty of six months and one day to two years and four months stipulated in Title 13, Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code, which lists libel under crimes against honor.

The fines, however, would remain, Pimentel said. These range from P200 to P6,000, "and so would the right of the offended party to sue for damages in a civil action."

In short, the bill seeks to treat libel cases as civil, not criminal, proceedings. This means that if enacted, the modified libel law would entail no arrest warrants for the accused and, even if found guilty, they would not be placed behind bars.

Pimentel wanted the fines scrapped, too, "if we are to be holistic in the decriminalization of libel," but the committee report had recommended otherwise.

The bill also seeks to delete criminal liabilities or penalties, except for the fines, as applied to prohibited publications (Article 357), slander or oral defamation (Article 358), slander by deed (Article 359), incriminatory machinations (Article 363), intriguing against honor (Article 364), and scurrilous libel under crimes against public order (Article 142).

'TEMPER IS JOB-RELATED'

Luli explains her mom

By Dennis Jay C. Santos and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Luli Macapagal-Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's only daughter, on Friday defended her mother's famous temper, saying it was job-related.

The President has been heavily criticized for her "moody" swings in her demeanor from joyful to furious.

But Luli, known for being demure and unflappable said her mother tends to lose her cool when her aides fail to do their jobs.

The President, she hastened to add, does not hold grudges against her aides. "It is not at the person that she gets mad at," Luli said.

She said her mother's temperament is heavily influenced by her being hard working.

Misunderstood

"I think people misunderstand, because she (President) is a stickler for hard work. So when she gets upset it is because you didn't fulfill your commitment. PA (Presidential Assistant Jess Dureza) knows this," Luli told reporters during a visit here on Friday.

The presidential daughter came here to represent Ms Macapagal at the First Mindanao Indigenous People (IP) Elder Summit held at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines Regional headquarters in Camp Alano, Toril District.

The President could not attend the summit because she was reportedly down with the flu.

Luli admitted her mother easily gets piqued when the delivery of government services to the rest of the country is hampered.

Shifting to politics, Luli said her mother does not feel threatened by the popularity of movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. who recently announced his plan to run for President in 2004.

Grounded

"No, she is very grounded in her faith and she also knows that she has a lot of support from a lot of people and that she also works hard. Her focus is all right and she takes everything in stride," Luli said.

She said even recent surveys showing a dip in the President's popularity do not bother her mother at all.

"If you look at the surveys, no one really comes out as the highest, so we can't really say who is sure to win," Luli said.

In the latest Social Weather Stations survey in November, Poe made a "phenomenal" leap from fourth place in September to first place. Poe is tied statistically with previous topnotcher Sen. Noli de Castro.

The SWS survey results showed that 25 percent of the electorate would vote for Poe if the presidential elections were held last month, while 24 percent would vote for De Castro. Former Sen. Raul Roco and the President were tied at third place. Roco garnered 18 percent and Ms Macapagal, 17 percent. Sen. Panfilo Lacson landed last with 10 percent.

Luli also defended her mother's provincial sorties, saying these were part of her job as President.

"My mother is not even campaigning yet, she is working as a President," she said.

Datu Cesar Calimpitan Betil, executive chairman of the Bagobo Supreme Council of Elders, which organized the two-day Summit, said the President does not need to solicit their votes.

Behind GMA

Betil said the leaders of the 39 tribes of Mindanao, who represent 7.1 million indigenous peoples, are solidly behind Ms Macapagal.

He said the lumads are grateful to the President for the enactment of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA), which recognizes their plight and concerns.

For this, he said, the tribes of Mindanao have considered the President as one of their own.

Betil said this was very evident when tribal elders agreed to confer her with the title of "biyya" or queen.

JUSTICE and INDEMNIFICATION
FOR ALL
MARTIAL LAW
HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS..!
EX-DETAINEES

VICTIMS of martial law continue their rallies for justice, this one at the Chino Roces Bridge at Mendiola near Malacañang yesterday.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PCGG: No deal with Marcoses

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ANY DEAL with the heirs of Ferdinand Marcos over the $683 million recovered from the family is out of the question, the Presidential Commission on Good Government assured the victims of martial law yesterday.

The group Selda, which represents most of the human rights victims of the Marcos regime, had accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of wanting to cut a deal with the Marcoses.

The martial law victims are claiming about a third of the $683 million, which with interest grew from the $350 million found by the government years ago in Swiss banks.

Selda secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez was able to obtain a Nov. 20, 2003 memo from US District Court Judge Manuel Real ordering lawyers of the Marcoses, the claimants and the Philippine government to enter into a "mediation."

Real also said in his memo: "I am also advised that the President of the Philippines [was] amenable to such a solution when she discussed Philippine problems with President Bush."

Some Selda members picketed Malacañang yesterday morning.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. assured the group the mediation "is not going to happen."

He pointed out that before Real issued his memo, the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had already denied the Marcoses' appeal for mediation.

The PCGG, representing the Philippine government, invoked "sovereign immunity" in refusing to enter into settlement talks with the late dictator's heirs.

David Lombardi Jr., chief court mediator for the 9th Circuit, ruled on Nov. 12 that "these appeals will not be selected to be included in the mediation process."

"It appears that various pre-conditions set by the parties cannot be met," Lombardi said, referring to the government's refusal to settle.

"That's the end of that," Carranza said. "The Philippine government has already indicated it cannot and will not enter into a mediation. We cannot give up our sovereign immunity."

As to Real's claim that Ms Macapagal had told US President George W. Bush she was "amenable" to a settlement with the Marcoses, Carranza said he did not know about this.

But neither would Real know about it, he said.

"He's (Real) not even here so how would he know? Unless Bush made a stopover in Hawaii and told him," he added.

"The fact is we've instructed our lawyer to file our position (opposing mediation) before the Ninth Circuit," he said.

Carranza claimed the Marcoses were behind Real's insistence on a settlement as they want to thwart the Supreme Court's July 15, 2003 decision awarding the $683 million to the government for being ill-gotten.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 7, 2003
2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, put off your garment of mourning and unhappiness, put on the splendor and glory of God forever.

Wrap yourself in the mantle of holiness that comes from God, put on your head the crown of glory of the Eternal One.

For God will show your splendor to every being under Heaven.

He will call your name forever, "Peace in Justice" and "Glory in the Fear of the Lord."

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights. Look toward the East and see your children gathered together from the setting of the sun to its rising, by the voice of the Holy One, rejoicing because God has remembered them.

They left you on foot, taken away by the enemy. God will lead them back, carried gloriously like royal princes.

For God has resolved to bring low every high mountain and the everlasting hills, to fill up the valleys and level out the ground, in order that Israel may walk in safety under the Glory of God.

Even the forests and the fragrant trees will give shade to Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy by the light of his Glory, escorting them with his mercy and justice.

2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

When I pray for you, I pray with joy. I cannot forget all you shared with me in the service of the Gospel, from the first day until now. Since God began such a good work in you, I am certain that he will complete it in the day of Christ Jesus.

God knows that I love you dearly with the love of Christ Jesus, and in my prayers I ask that your love may lead you each day to a deeper knowledge and clearer discernment, that you may have good criteria for everything. So you may be pure of heart and come blameless to the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of holiness that comes through Christ Jesus, for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilatus was governor of Judea; Herod ruled over Galilee, his brother Philip ruled over the country of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests at that time when the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John proclaimed a baptism for repentant people to obtain forgiveness of sins and went through the whole country bordering the Jordan River. It was just as is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: listen to this voice crying out in the desert: prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. The valleys will be filled and the mountains and hills made low. Everything crooked will be made straight and the rough paths smooth; and every mortal will see the salvation of God.

Commentary

Advent is a time for conversion, a time to prepare the way for the coming of the kingdom of God. Conversion is a radical change of mentality, basic attitudes, a change of minds and hearts that manifest in a new lifestyle and behavior. Conversion is a prerequisite to celebrate the season of advent. Conversion is like going to the wilderness of the desert. It demands inner solitude, silence and self-awareness to listen to the voice of God and feel His presence. As C. Lewis said so well, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains." It is not only John and the prophets shouting at us in this season but God himself who constantly offers us His great love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Conduct unbecoming of a sheriff—Respondent may be held administratively liable for his willful failure to pay his debt to complainant, an act which is unbecoming of a public employee and a ground for disciplinary action. The applicable provision of law is Book V. Title I, Subtitle A, Chapter 6, Section 46 (b) (22) of E.O. No. 292. Under this provision, a public employee's willful failure to pay just debts is a ground for disciplinary action. Rule XIV, Section 22 of the Rules Implementing Book V. of EO No. 292, as modified by Rule IV, Section 52,(C) (10) of Resolution No. 991936 of the Civil Service Commission, otherwise known as the Uniform Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service, provides that "just debts" refer to: 1) claims adjudicated by a court of law; or, 2) claims the existence of his indebtedness and the justness thereof, respondent's obligation falls under the second category. Moreover, under the same Rules, willful failure to pay just debts is classified as a light offense, punishable by reprimand for the first infraction, suspension for 1 to 30 days for the second transgression, and dismissal for the third offense. If appearing that this is the first time that respondent has committed an offense of this nature, the penalty imposable upon him is reprimand. We cannot grant civil indemnity to complainant as this is an administrative case and the court is not a collection agency. [Citation omitted] [Resolution, Justice Austria-Martinez, Second Division, Bago vs Feraren, A.M. No. P-01-1466. September 3, 2003] BY R. B. VERA

Is youth wasted on young? Maybe, say seminar speakers

By Celine R. Madamba

IS YOUTH really wasted on the young? Given the overwhelming number of youth voters expected to march to the polls next year, the resounding answer should be "no." Yet there are those who think otherwise, hoping that the youth would "wake up" soon to their enormous potential, or else.

According to award-winning journalist Cheche Lazaro in a recent INQUIRER seminar, the youth's energy, active intellect and ability to mobilize quickly are noteworthy qualities; however, the "youth could be a more potent force if they were just more focused."

The lack of focus may be attributed to the young's multi-task behavior as well as television, which Lazaro believes has a "dumbing" effect on youth audiences. Rather than taking everything they see and hear at face value, she recommended that young Filipinos take a stand in the coming elections and cast an "educated vote" based on the qualifications, platform, voting record, stand on critical issues and lifestyles of the candidates.

Strongest voice

"The youth shouldn't just pass off the elections as a futile exercise. They cannot leave it to politicians to run the country. They must make their voices heard," said Lazaro.

PLDT vice president for media and strategic communications Butch Jimenez admitted the youth could be a potent force in the elections, as they already are in business and government. "In the telecommunications industry, even in TV, the voice of the youth is the strongest voice in the industry."

Market studies for TV programming and advertising are increasingly geared toward the youth. While older consumers have the purchasing power, only the young have the energy to invest in the latest gadgets and cell phones. The youth's influence in setting trends is so powerful that many companies now look to the youth for direction, Jimenez said.

Real problems

When it comes to politics, however, National Youth Commission chair Bam Aquino believes there is a tendency for young people to "tune off" and be complacent. Fortunately, this has not affected the collective efforts of the youth in the grassroots level, where young people are eager and effective organizers.

"For the youth in the barangay, problems are very real. There is a strong sense of urgency. Unfortunately, due to lack of education, they are easily swayed by leaders who don't always think of their best interest. It's like the blind leading the blind. They need to be empowered."

Jimenez cited several qualities that he feels could empower the youth to be more effective catalysts of change in the country. He stressed the values of discipline, flexibility, propensity for high savings, a sense of sacrifice, strong entrepreneurial spirit, faith, attitude and integrity. He added that while the youth has everything it takes to survive—speed, energy, idealism, dynamism— they lack wisdom.

Wisdom by osmosis

According to World Wildlife Fund Philippines president Lory Tan, wisdom can be gained by the youth through "osmosis" provided they have the humility to learn from others and from experience.

Sharing his experience was MMDA chair Bayani Fernando who attributes his success in business and in developing the city of Marikina largely to reading and discipline, two values which he believes empowers the youth to attain their dreams.

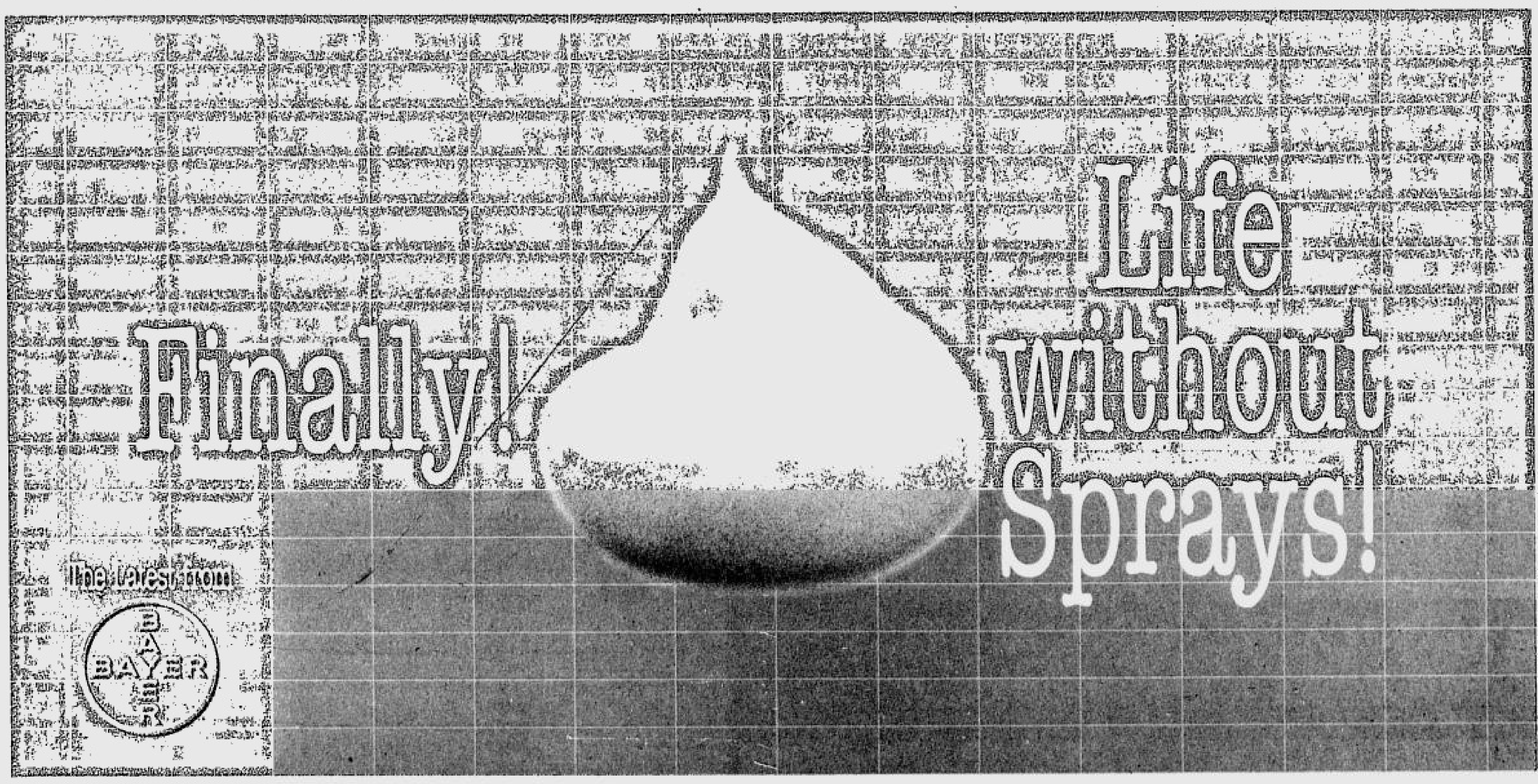
The need for the young to be constantly aware of the impact of globalization and the changing business climate was also emphasized by young entrepreneur, Jay Aldeguer, founder of Island Souvenirs. Rather than

IS YOUTH/ A6

IS HE GOING TO RUN?

Santa Claus announced in a press conference yesterday that his sleigh has been stolen. He informed the public that this may cause a delay in the delivery of presents as he will be on foot this Christmas. He adviced public that they should just download SMART zed logos, ring tones and picture messages in lieu of sending each other presents this Yuletide Season.

For complete story turn to page H1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Life without Sprays!
BAYER

Kaye Torres, DOJ join forces anew

By Philip C. Tubeza

KAYE Torres, the only child of slain actress Nida Blanca, and Department of Justice officials have kissed and made up.

Torres and her lawyer Harriet Demetriou met with DOJ officials, led by Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez, for four hours on Friday to settle their differences over the failed extradition of the main suspect in Blanca's killing, her American husband Rod Lauren Strunk, from the United States.

Blanca was killed in November 2001. In January 2002, Strunk's lawyers asked the DOJ to let him visit his dying mother in California, promising that he would return.

Strunk changed his mind, claiming he would not get justice in the Philippines, and the government pressed for his extradition.

This was denied by a California court, however, leading to accusations by Torres and Demetriou that the government, particularly the DOJ and the National Bureau of Investigation, had been remiss in submitting the evidence to extradite Strunk. Demetriou had even called for Gutierrez's resignation.

But all that changed yesterday after the two sides met.

TORRES JOAN BONDOC

"We had a very productive discussion and we have agreed to work together," Gutierrez said.

One of the DOJ officials present said Gutierrez even made *beso-beso* (air kisses) with both Torres and Demetriou.

"We are now one and both Justice Demetriou and Ms Kaye Torres would be attending our following meetings so that they, particularly Ms Torres, would know what documents we have gathered," Gutierrez said.

A DOJ official said the tension that previously existed between the two camps was noticeably absent during the Friday meeting, which lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We were so focused on the discussion that I did not realize it was already past lunch time," the official said.

DOJ officials gave Torres and Demetriou a detailed briefing on what had led to California Judge Gregory Hollows' decision to junk the Philippine petition for Strunk's extradition. They were also briefed on the steps the DOJ will be taking to get Strunk back.

The DOJ is set to re-file its extradition request against Strunk on the advise of US Legal Attache Geoffrey Cole.

Gutierrez said they would be meeting next week with officials of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which also investigated Blanca's murder.

GMA makes pitch to Liberal Party

From page A1

Drilon aide claimed that Ms Macapagal herself had requested at the last minute that the affair be kept private.

"The response among the LP leaders present at the meeting was very warm. They felt the President answered very candidly questions regarding her personal stand on issues such as the coco levy case, the Marcos wealth and Erap," said former Rep. Michael T. Defensor, the President's spokesperson on campaign matters.

Defensor said the LP had asked the President, who is the party's honorary chair, to make a presentation to its officials to help the party narrow its selection of a presidential candidate.

Defensor said the President told the LP members that she would not cut any deals on any of the issues but would let the courts decide the cases involving the coco levy funds, specifically the San Miguel Corp. shares, the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and the plea of former President Joseph Estrada to be allowed to go to the US for medical treatment.

Defensor said former Education Secretary Raul Roco would make his presentation to the party in the next few days.

"We expect to come up with our choice for president within the week," he added.

One of those who attended last night's meeting, however, said he was "100 percent" sure Ms Macapagal would be the party's candidate and Roco's presentation would be a mere formality.

Aside from Drilon, Defensor said LP members present at the meeting were Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas, LP president Rep. Florencio Abad, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Sen. Francisco Pangilinan and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Defensor said the LP will be a vital cog in the President's campaign machinery in 2004 considering its long history, nationwide reach and members in key positions, including two senators, five governors and 30 congressmen.

"The LP [would be] of great value to the President because it is part of the coalition in Congress and she wants to continue this alliance through a new term," Defensor said.

After the President left at 8 p.m., Defensor said the LP members drew up a partial list of its senatorial bets—Roxas, Aquino, former Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay.

Aquino, however, was still undecided, he clarified.

Is youth wasted on young? . . .

From page A5

waiting for opportunities to happen, he suggested that the youth "create new ideas, new opportunities, new jobs, and more than anything, new hope."

Something you love

As young entrepreneurs, Figaro Coffee Co. founder Chit Juan, Alamat Comics founder and editor Budjette Tan and Chimara Neo-Vegan Café co-founder JP Tanchanco stressed the value of "starting small and doing something you love".

According to them, opportunities in business today are very conducive for the youth, citing trends such as the influx of new technologies that provide easy access to information locally and globally and the retail mall phenomenon, which has become an incubator of fresh ideas from aspiring entrepreneurs.

INQUIRER columnist Dr. Michael Tan suggested that the wave of globalization be explored further by localizing global trends in what he referred to as "glocalization" and the "indigenization" of foreign ideas. As long at the youth have passion, clarity of purpose, perseverance, creativity and resourcefulness, he believes that anything and everything is possible.

Hopeful, patriotic

All speakers during the seminar agreed that while there is a sense of hopelessness in the country today due to chronic problems such as crime, lack of education and poverty, the youth must remain hopeful and patriotic and must continue to work for the betterment of society.

"Love this country," said Lazaro to the youth. "Love it like you would somebody. Look at its potential and love it at its scruffiest because it is the only country that we belong to."

"And if our country is going to be run by an actor without a script," added Tan, "it is incumbent for us to be here to write that script."

Heroic

According to INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros, "the country is in such a mess. The only way we can get out it is through heroic action, which the youth are perfectly capable of."

Attended by some 300 students from 44 universities and colleges, the seminar entitled "Generation Why II: the Youth as Catalysts for a Dynamic Philippines," was organized by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Network clubs as part of the Inquirer's youth readership program. The seminar was sponsored by PLDT, GMA 7, Inq7.Net and Inquirer 2bU and was hosted by the University of Asia and the Pacific.

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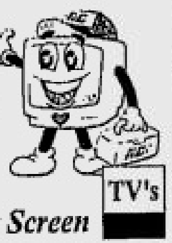

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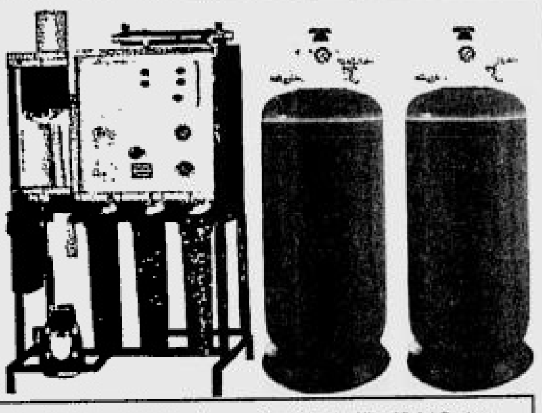

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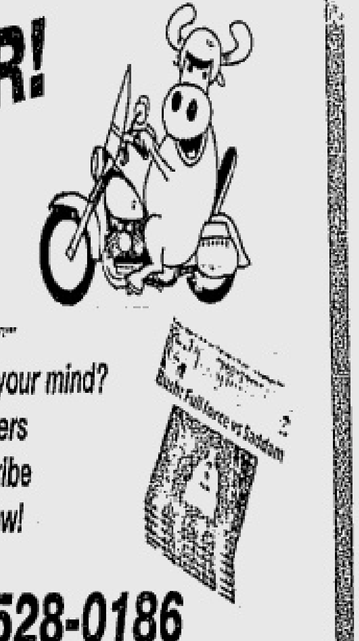

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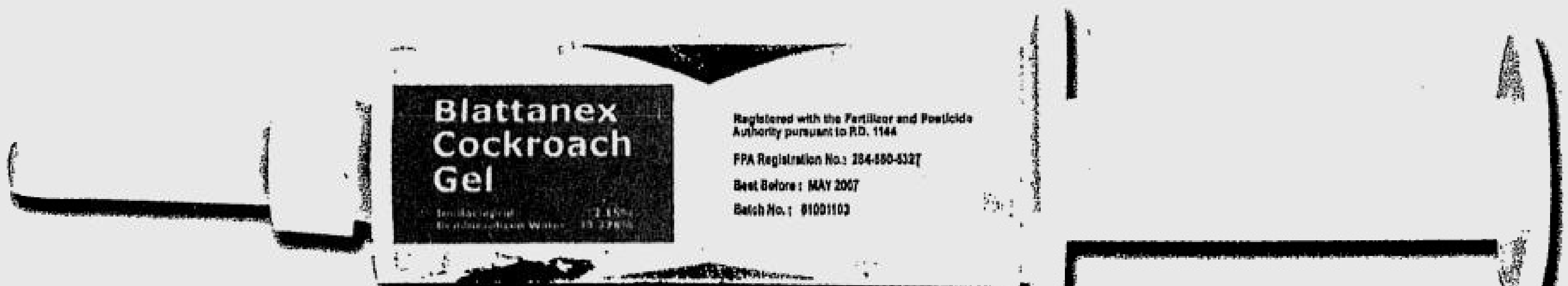
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US soldier, 4 Iraqis killed in blast

BAGHDAD—Iraq's insurgency claimed more Iraqi and American lives Friday when a bomb targeting a US army convoy exploded in a busy shopping street in Baghdad just as a pro-US demonstration condemned growing "terrorism."

Meanwhile, US President George W. Bush appointed a veteran former secretary of state to grapple with another problem facing the war-shattered country—its massive pile of international debt.

At least four Iraqis were killed and 15 were wounded, including two women and a child, in the blast, some 200 meters from a mosque used by Sunni Muslims in the New Baghdad district.

The US-led coalition said one US soldier was killed, after witnesses reported seeing as many as three hurt.

A minibus with some 20 people aboard was setting down passengers when the home-made bomb detonated as the three-vehicle US convoy passed, sending flying glass and metal ripping through the occupants, witnesses said.

"I don't understand why they do it," said cake shop owner Abdul Wahad Allwan. "They know there's a Friday market here and there are a lot of people."

Blood, pieces of flesh, discarded clothing and shoes littered the street, an AFP reporter saw.

Ahmed Ali, a sweet seller, said: "It's a cowardly act. They hurt one American but they killed and wounded far more Iraqis. I saw one American soldier badly wounded and covered in blood.

At almost the same time as the major Baghdad blast, about 1,000 Iraqis, mostly Shiite Muslims, rallied in the city center to protest against the daily attacks by anti-US insurgents.

Dozens of children aged between 5 and 10 marched at the front of the protest, with flowers in their hands, under white banners proclaiming in red letters: "Children—innocent victims of terrorism," and: "Terrorism blocks any future for children."

The blast, the latest in a succession of attacks on both civilian and military targets, came a day after US Secretary of State Colin Powell called on Nato to take a greater role "to support peace and stability." *AFP*

World leaders condemn bomb attack on Russian train

FIREFIGHTERS approach the exploded carriage of a commuter train just outside Yessentuki station in Russia's southern fringe Dec. 5. A suspected suicide bomber killed 42 people aboard a packed commuter train near rebel Chechnya in what President Vladimir Putin called an attempt to destabilize Russia on the eve of key polls. REUTERS

PARIS—World leaders Friday condemned what Britain called a "vicious attack" on a Russian commuter train, in which at least 42 people were killed and more than 200 injured.

The United States said nothing could justify such a "terrorist act."

"We reiterate our condemnation of those who engage in terrorism," deputy state department spokesperson Adem Ereli told reporters. "No cause, no circumstances justify such actions."

In Brussels, the president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, said the EU executive rejected any form of terrorism, "whatever the motives and whoever the authors."

Speaking for the British government, Junior Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell said: "I condemn this vicious attack and extend my sympathies to the families."

He added that Prime Minister Tony Blair had personally sent condolences to the Russian. government.

Despite European criticism of Russia's policies in Chechnya, from where the bombers were reported to have come, there was no stinting of the condemnation of the violence.

"No cause justifies the recourse to such acts," said the spokesperson for the French foreign ministry, Cecile Pozzo di Borgo, said.

French President Jacques Chirac, who was on a visit to Tunisia, said he had "learnt with dismay about the terrible attack carried out in a suburban train that caused the death of so many people."

He said he was "indignant and deeply saddened at this terrorist act."

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, in a personal letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said he was shocked to learn of the "cruel attack."

"This hateful attack should be condemned in the strongest terms," he said.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said the bombing was a "despicable act of terror" that "fills us with dismay and outrage."

Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel said the attack was aimed at destabilizing Russia two days before legislative elections.

"This new despicable terrorist act against innocent civilians in Russia fills me with horror," he said in a statement.

"Those who aim to destabilize the southern part of Russia bear a particularly heavy responsibility. On the eve of the Dec. 7 elections, Russia must be able to choose its future serenely and freely," Michel added.

Prodi also said the blast was aimed at destabilizing the election. He said the European Commission was committed to the fight against world terrorism "side by side with Russia and other international partners, in full respect for the rules of law."

The Chinese foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing, also said his country was "willing to work with the international community, including Russia, to strengthen anti-terrorism cooperation."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi—who created a stir recently by accusing the media of "telling tales" about the situation in Chechnya, where Russian troops are accused of killing civilians in the war against separatist rebels— said the bombing was another "cowardly" and "barbaric" attack. *AFP*

UN reform panel to aim for 'doable' proposals

UNITED NATIONS—The head of a panel charting the future of the United Nations says his group is to come up with "practical and doable" proposals in analyzing the world body's failure to respond to threats of war.

After deep divisions over the US invasion of Iraq, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan last month chose a panel of former prime ministers and foreign ministers, among others, to make proposals for the United Nations in the 21st century.

Speaking before the 16-member group started its first weekend retreat in Princeton, New Jersey the former prime minister of Thailand, Anand Panyarachun said on Friday, "we are at a crossroads."

"We have to try to focus on the fundamental causes of failure of the UN system to take collective action or make a collective response to threats of peace and security," he said of the report the panel will deliver by next September.

"We have to focus on a set of recommendations that are practical and are doable," Panyarachun said.

The panel was formed after Annan told world leaders at the General Assembly session last September that the world body had reached a "fork in the road," possibly as important as in 1945 when representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco to draw up the UN charter. *Reuters*

Powell: US does not support independence for Taiwan

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell, seeking to calm rising tensions between Taiwan and China, reaffirmed on Friday that the United States did not support independence for Taiwan and was committed to its "one China" policy.

While asserting that the escalating cross-straits rhetoric is "not alarming," Powell said: "We hope both sides will realize where their interests lie and be careful about what they say."

Powell, speaking to reporters after escorting Jordan's King Abdullah from the state department, said he spoke earlier by telephone with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

"We reaffirmed to the Chinese again today, and will when Premier Wen (Jiabao) is here next week, that we remain totally committed to our 'one-China' policy founded on the three communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act and we do not support an independence movement and we do not support independence for Taiwan," Powell said.

China says Taiwan is a core issue in Sino-US ties and will figure prominently in talks between Wen and US President George W. Bush Dec. 9.

Facing a tough election battle in March, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has focused his advance campaign on an assertion that Taiwan is a separate country.

Privately, US officials fear Chen will cross China's red lines on the issue, reaching a point at which Beijing will feel compelled to act to preserve its goal of reuniting with what it considers a renegade province.

Days before Wen's visit to the United States, Chinese army officers threatened war with Taiwan if it moved toward independence, even at the cost of boycotts of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Under US pressure, Chen Shui-bian on Thursday promised US officials he would not hold a referendum on independence from China.

Chen told visiting US Sen. Jeff Bingaman and Douglas Paal, Washington's top envoy in Taipei, the referendum he plans to hold during the March election was aimed at protecting the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

State department deputy spokesperson Adam Ereli also sent a US warning message to Taiwan on Friday. *Reuters*

PEOPLE walk down a snow-covered sidewalk on New York's Fifth Avenue, Dec. 5. The New York area is expected to get up to eight inches of snow in the next two days. REUTERS

Storm hits US Northeast

NEW YORK—The first major winter storm of the season in the Northeastern United States brought a blustery surge of sleet and snow, closing schools, making a mess on highways and triggering a rush on snow blowers and shovels.

The snow was blamed for at least three traffic deaths, and caused lengthy airport delays on Friday.

Forecasters said the system threatened to deliver an even heavier blow over the weekend, with up to 46 cm of snow forecast in parts of the New England states.

Ahead of the storm, many schools sent students home early and grocery and hardware stores filled with shoppers.

The National Weather Service said the complex storm system brought in snow and sleet, changing to rain in some places as temperatures warmed. Along the mid-Atlantic coast, hit by the first round early Friday, a second wintry punch was expected to strike late in the day.

Forecasters in Massachusetts predicted up to 46 cm of snow through Sunday. Near-blizzard conditions were in the offing for parts of Maine and New Hampshire. In New Jersey, up to 36 cm of snow was forecast.

About 200 flights were canceled Friday at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport, and travelers were told to expect delays of up to three hours. At New York's La Guardia airport, about 100 flights had been canceled by Friday evening, and other flights were delayed up to two hours. *AP*

Pakistan to reap big dividends from peace

ISLAMABAD—After 56 years of conflict with India, there are growing whispers in Pakistan about the benefits of peace. Rather than shells and bullets, truckloads of fresh vegetables and consumer goods could come across the border from India. A reduced military budget would allow for desperately needed spending in education and infrastructure, and foreign investors could finally come knocking.

In the past two weeks, Pakistan and India have taken swift steps toward normalization of ties—with a ceasefire in Kashmir and moves to restore air, rail and sea links—two years after they almost fought their fourth war.

It's too soon to talk of a lasting peace, given the nuclear neighbors' history of diplomatic bust-ups and domestic opposition in both countries to making concessions on thorny issues like Kashmir. But Pakistani businessmen and others are quick to see the potential benefits normalized relations would bring.

Raees Ashraf Tar Muhammad, a commodities trader in Pakistan's main commercial center of Karachi, wants to import tomatoes. The vegetable currently costs $2 per kilogram in the southern city because of a shortage, compared with just 20-25 cents per kilogram in India. "If we had direct trade with India these days, we would have brought tomatoes within three days to flood the vegetable market," he said.

Much of the trade between the two countries is hamstrung by official restrictions and a closed border, meaning exports and imports are mostly smuggled or sent via third countries in Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Talk of the prospect of open trade is a marked contrast from December 2001, when an attack by Islamic militants on India's Parliament pushed the two nations to the brink of war—their fourth since independence from Britain in 1947. India accused Pakistan's spy agency of being behind the attack, which Pakistan denied. *AP*

'DAY OF INFAMY'
This 1940s file photo obtained from the US Naval Historical Center shows Japanese Imperial Navy Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto when he was commander in chief, combined fleet. Yamamoto was the architect of the Dec. 7, 1941 surprise attack on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. AFP

General's punishment too lenient, say Sarajevans

GALIC on the dock Dec. 5 AP

SARAJEVO—Sarajevans slammed the 20-year jail term handed down on a Bosnian Serb general Friday as too lenient, as they re-lived the horrors of the capital's 44-month siege in which thousands died.

"The sentence is far too mild compared to what he did to us," said Sanda Pudaric, a 40-year-old woman severely wounded during the 1992-95 siege of the Bosnian capital by troops under the command of Serb general Stanislav Galic.

"Galic led an uncivilized campaign against ordinary people's lives and against all civilized values."

Pudaric was pregnant when she was hit with shrapnel from Serb mortars as she went to work, in just one of thousands of acts of random violence against ordinary people in the mainly Muslim city.

Pudaric's baby survived, but her left leg was amputated. In all, nearly 12,000 people including 1,500 children died in the siege, according to the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

The United Nations war crimes court in The Hague said Galic, commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija corps of the Bosnian Serb army for two years from September 1992, ordered the violence to spread terror among the civilian population.

He is the first person to be convicted over the siege of the Bosnian capital. In particular, he was blamed for the shelling of the open-air Markale market in February 1994 in which 66 people were killed and 140 wounded.

But people who lived through the nightmare said the UN had failed to bring justice to bear on the crimes carried out under Galic's orders.

"Even thinking of the massacre makes me scream. I will never forget pieces of human flesh scattered all over the place, screams, and people's limbs being loaded in trucks," said Bera Beslagic, 40, a salesperson at the Markale market.

"The smell of blood was so intense that I think I can still feel it.

"I can't imagine that someone gets only 20 years for that. Galic deserved the death penalty."

Ejup Ganic, the wartime member of Bosnia's collective presidency, expressed outrage at the sentence.

"Is that an appropriate sentence for thousands of murders, and for starving half a million people for such a long time?" he asked.

Jasmin Odobasic, of the Muslim commission for missing people, said Bosnian Muslims would lose respect for the UN war crimes court after Friday's verdict.

"If you divide his jail term with the number of victims it seems that Galic is to serve only several hours for each death," he said.

Armed with tanks, artillery, mortars and sniper rifles, the Bosnian Serb forces picked off their targets, mainly ordinary civilians, on a daily basis.

They specialized in denying people access to food, medicine, water and electricity. Whole streets became completely off-limits due to deadly sniper fire.

Even those who escaped personal tragedy agreed Galic got off lightly. *AFP*

Zimbabwe says 'to hell' with Commonwealth

MASVINGO, Zimbabwe—Zimbabwe's ruling party came out in strong support Friday of President Robert Mugabe's threats to quit the Commonwealth, with Vice President Joseph Msika saying "to hell" with the club from which the southern African country has been suspended for close to two years.

Mugabe, opening the party's annual conference, told the 3,000 or so delegates that Zimbabwe "cannot brook interference with its sovereignty" by the 54-member grouping currently holding a summit in Nigeria.

Several other senior party officials said Zimbabwe did not need the Commonwealth as rank-and-file members of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) demonstrated against the Commonwealth outside the conference venue in the southern town of Masvingo, a party stronghold.

"If the choice was made, one, for us to lose our sovereignty and become a member of the Commonwealth or, remain with our sovereignty and lose the membership of the Commonwealth. I would say, let the Commonwealth go," Mugabe declared.

The huge crowd of party loyalists erupted with cheers of support as he repeated the same threat he made earlier this week—that Zimbabwe is prepared to "say goodbye" to the Commonwealth if not treated as an equal. *AFP*

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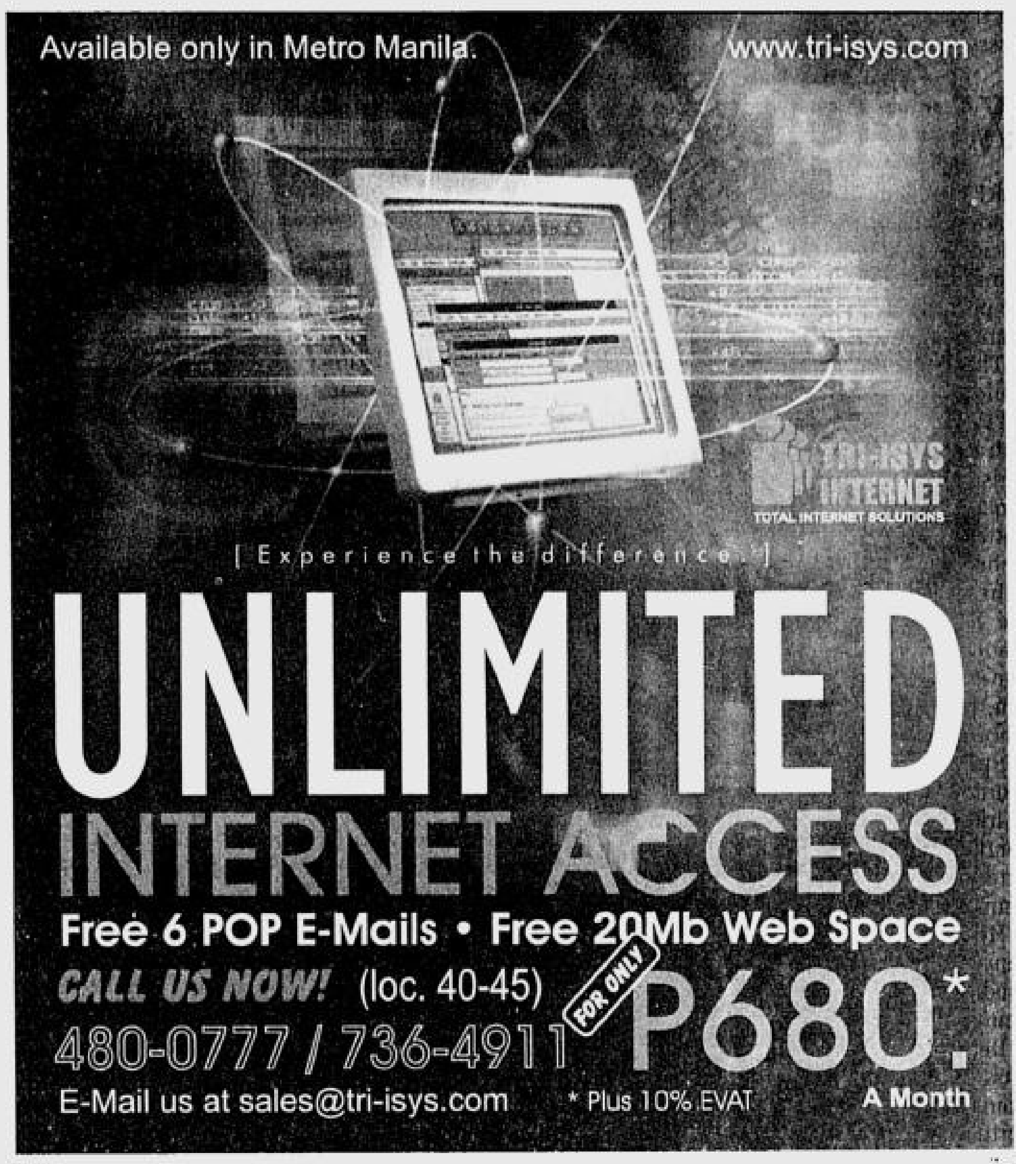
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'Final push' for Cha-cha set

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would make a "final push" for a constituent assembly as a way of introducing amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

He said he is reviving his proposal in January after the leagues of governors, city mayors, municipal mayors and barangay leaders have approved the scheme and President Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed it to the Senate as an important measure.

"If that is not possible, then that is lost. We will not want to wait again until 2010," he told reporters here on Friday.

At this point, he added, "only 14 senators *ang humaharang sa kabutihan ng bayan* (obstructing what is good for the country)."

If constituent assembly succeeds and President Macapagal-Arroyo wins the elections, she will be the transition president in the shift from presidential to parliamentary system, he said.

The President and the 12 senators who will win in 2004 will have their terms cut earlier than 2010, he said. This was the reason there was resistance against the proposal, he said.

Senators earlier opposed moves to amend the Constitution but relented and showed signs of agreeing to the amendments but provided they be made by delegates to be elected to a constitutional convention.

Through the constituent assembly, the two chambers of Congress assemble as one body to amend the Constitution.

This method has raised suspicions that members of Congress would insert amendments for their personal benefits.

The Church and former President Corazon Aquino are at the forefront of opposition to any amendments to the Constitution.

Several senators, including John Osmeña and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., are in favor of amending the Constitution to change the form of government from presidential to a federal system.

Pimentel has said that through a federal system of government, regions that are being neglected now could develop on their own and the secessionist movement in Mindanao could be put to rest.

Osmeña has said in Bacolod City that he would support a candidate for President who would push for a federal system of government.

Opponents of the move to amend the Constitution have raised fears that the constitutional change was intended to perpetuate officials in power.

One of the most feared amendment is one that would lift term limits on elected officials, including senators and members of the House of Representatives. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CHR backs filing of raps vs troopers in camp raid

DAVAO CITY—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Southern Mindanao has endorsed the criminal and administrative charges against military and police officers responsible for the May 24 raid on a youth camp in a private mountain resort here.

Alberto Sipaco, CHR director, said the filing of formal complaints against Supt. Federico Dulay, chief of the Police Regional Mobile Group, Capt. Ramon Torres of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion and Chief Inspector Eduardo Chico, a certain Supt. Ferro, and a certain Dong Chino of the Police Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) was justified.

Sipaco said the CHR, after a series of investigation, found the police and the Army officers responsible for arbitrary detention, coercion, violation of domicile, and child abuse when they raided the Amoguis Resort here, where some 100 traumatized children were undergoing psychosocial therapy.

During that raid, about 200 fully armed soldiers and policemen swooped on the campsite and its surrounding perimeters rousing the children and camp facilitators from their sleep.

The raiders hollered the children out of their tents with guns in assault position, herded them to a corner where they were made to lie face down on the ground.

The children said the raiding team searched around and confiscated several equipment including tape recorders and cameras.

Kabataan, a consortium of child-focused non-government organizations that organized the youth camp, said the experience had taken a heavy toll on the children's bright prospects of healing.

Most of those in the camp were prostituted children and street children.

In the complaint, the camp organizers said Torres told them the raiding team was only verifying reports about armed strangers from Davao del Sur allegedly transporting firearms and bombs in the vicinity.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, then 73rd IB commander, said they were only providing help to the police.

CHR lawyer Edmundo Albay said the raid has "no legal basis."

Meanwhile, a ranking military official said some people's organization have been channeling government funds to the New People's Army.

Col. Allen Capuyan of the military's intelligence service in Southern Mindanao said evidence of this is the growing number of insurgents, especially in areas declared as zones of peace where these people's organizations were working.

Militant groups said Capuyan's statement only showed how paranoid this government is that even youths, in an apparent reference to the May 24 raid, were being treated as terrorists.

Capuyan said the government was now implementing measures to counter the growing threats of communism. *Anthony Allada and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

John O says he will turn independent

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. John Osmeña, who is identified with the opposition, said he was seriously considering running for reelection as an independent in 2004 because he has not decided who to support for president.

When asked whether he would support Sen. Panfilo Lacson or movie king Fernando Poe Jr.'s bid for president, Osmeña had only this to say: "None of the above."

But Osmeña also said that while he is considering running as an independent, he may eventually change his mind depending on what programs of government Poe comes up with, and whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo makes an unequivocal commitment to support an amendment to the Constitution that will put in place a federal form of government.

Osmeña said he could support either Arroyo or Poe.

Presidential aspirant Raul Roco has already made a categorical statement against a federal system of government, "eliminating him from my consideration," Osmeña said.

Osmeña's younger brother, Emilio, has however placed his regional party Promdi behind Roco's candidacy.

The senator meanwhile said he "bewailed" the fact that "so many people have jumped over to the bandwagon of FPJ without FPJ's even saying a word."

He said Poe should explain what he stands for and what his economic program for the country is.

"There is a blind stampede just because of a perception that he is going to be catapulted to the presidency by the sheer popularity of his being a movie star. I don't think this is the way intelligent people should decide on the next president of the Philippines, least of all political parties," he said.

Osmeña said the group of Poe should disclose who are his advisers, his program of government and his stand on issues.

"I would like to know, particularly, what his position is on amending the Constitution to establish a federal system of government," he said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

A CHILD at the Buliok Complex takes his gift from the "Bisaya."

PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Christmas comes to former camp of Moro rebels

PIKIT, North Cotabato—The spirit of Christmas has come to the Buliok complex here, a vast cluster of Muslim villages where the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) formerly maintained a large base.

With children in tow, around 500 Muslim parents on Thursday morning flocked to Barangay Bagoinged, the de facto center of the sprawling Muslim community, to attend a Christmas party organized by the military and the GMA Kapuso Foundation.

For the residents, who had been displaced by recent hostilities between the government and the MILF, the party also became a venue to wish for some goodies.

Baicong Dawadi, 32, a resident of the nearby village of Bulod, rushed to Bagoinged with her five children, the youngest of whom was 10 months old.

"I hope we get some supplies and toys for the children. They do not have toys anymore. Some of the toys were left behind when we fled while some had been worn out," she told reporters.

Dawadi's seven-year-old daughter said she wanted a doll. Her two-year-old nephew wanted a toy truck.

Sisters Hyda, 10, and Faozia Ali, 8, did not mind the long walk to Bagoinged from their village in Gli-gli so they could have their share.

"I will accept whatever it is they are giving but I wish they would give me some dress. I only have six dresses. My sister got three," Hyda said as she watched the gift-giving.

Hyda, who is fourth in a brood of eight, could not contain her happiness as volunteers handed her a package while the other children queued for their turn.

As soon as they got their gifts, the children raced to find out what the "Bisaya" (Christians) had given them.

The children got a pack of canned goods, milk, toothpaste, toothbrush, bath soap, crayons and pencil, and a coloring book. Older children got shoes.

Aside from the children, grown ups also received their share.

The 2nd Marine Brigade under Col. Ben Dolorfino also gave fishing items for fishermen in Barangay Buliok in the Pagalungan, Maguindanao side.

After receiving their gifts, the children participated in parlor games, which were part of the Christmas party.

Pao Islain, a sari-sari store owner in Bagoinged, said they were very glad that "Christians went here just to give us gifts."

"This is the first time an activity like this has been conducted here. Look at how happy the children are," Islain told reporters.

She said residents welcomed the visitors, including the military, because they knew they came in good faith.

"They wanted to share their blessings particularly at this time when Christmas is being celebrated," Islain said.

The gift-giving program was initiated by the Give a Gift program of the GMA Foundation.

Menchie Silvestre, Operations Officer of Give a Gift Program, said the program is just a "Christmas thing."

"Muslims do not celebrate Christmas but the spirit of Christmas is sharing. This is in effect our way of celebrating Christmas . . . through sharing. We do not impose on them that they too celebrate Christmas," Silvestre said.

Bagoinged barangay chair Jun Malingco said the children had become so aloof since violence erupted in the area.

He said children in the villages comprising the Buliok Complex always tend to isolate themselves from others, particularly non-Muslims.

"But today, they are so happy," Malingco said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Politics turns gentlemen into squabblers

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Politics can reduce two respected personalities, known for being gentle and gentlemanly, into squabbling men.

A forum on Friday meant to discuss the government's anti-drug drive became a venue for exchanging political potshots between Mayor Agustin Perdices and former mayor Antonio Remollo, the incumbent who was defeated by Perdices in 2001 who now plans to make a comeback in 2004.

This happened during the Kapihan sa PIA, which was supposed to have only Senior Supt. Amaron Morrok, the provincial police director of Negros Oriental, and city police director Constantino Barot as resource persons.

Remollo, chair of the Dumaguete City Partido ng Masang Pilipino and a regular at the Kapihan, sat with the audience in the front row.

Mayor Perdices showed up unexpectedly at the Bethel Guest House where the Kapihan was held. He occupied the vacant seat beside Remollo and for a while, the two mayoral candidates for the 2004 elections, both in red shirts, were not speaking to each other.

As the Kapihan got underway, Perdices put one over Remollo—he lifted his chair and brought it to the front table, where he sat beside the moderator and participated in the question and answer forum as a resource person.

This apparently did not sit well with Remollo, who asked the staff of the Philippine Information Agency why the mayor was sitting there when he was not in the guest list for that particular Kapihan.

Still Remollo participated in the discussions. He said he had a plan to curb the drug trade in Dumaguete.

Perdices said, "If TonyRems (Remollo) has a program to fight drugs abuse, let him endorse it to the city so it can be acted on before he becomes mayor because if we wait until he becomes mayor, that might be in 2010," eliciting laughter from the audience.

Remollo just smiled. He then proceeded to share some of his ideas, which centered on the need for more policemen in the city. Reacting to the Mayor's challenge, he said he would only share his plan with the police because the city might blame him if it doesn't work.

"But I'd like to thank the mayor for coming even though he was not part of the panel of speakers," Remollo said.

Without missing a beat, the mayor replied, "you're welcome to sit in front, Ton, or you can wait until you're mayor."

PIA-Dumaguete manager Jennifer Catan-Tilos said she feared the discussion would get out of hand.

"I took over the discussion to steer it back to the topic, because the attention of the audience was not anymore focused on the anti-drug program," she said.

PIA information officer Rachelle Nessia said radio stations carried nothing about what the policemen said and focused on the tit-for-tat.

SC tells anti-graft court to lift Soriquez suspension

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the Sandiganbayan to lift a 90-day suspension order it handed to acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, a move which Soriquez said in a statement allows him to "step on the gas" in implementing the Macapagal administration's infrastructure programs.

The Supreme Court's second division ordered the Fifth Division of the Sandiganbayan to lift the suspension order in connection with Soriquez's alleged involvement in the breaching of a portion of the FVR Megadike which was built when he was still director of the Mt. Pinatubo Commission.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order against the Sandiganbayan stopping the anti-graft court from implementing its suspension order on Soriquez.

The high tribunal also stopped the Sandiganbayan from further proceeding with its hearing of the graft case filed against Soriquez.

In his statement, Soriquez said he welcomed the decision because he can now "move on and focus more attention in implementing and sustaining the President's infrastructure programs."

"The battle is only half won but I have no doubt that justice will prevail and the truth will come out in the end," said Soriquez in his statement.

He said the damage brought to the Megadike was due to a technical glitch, not sub-standard materials.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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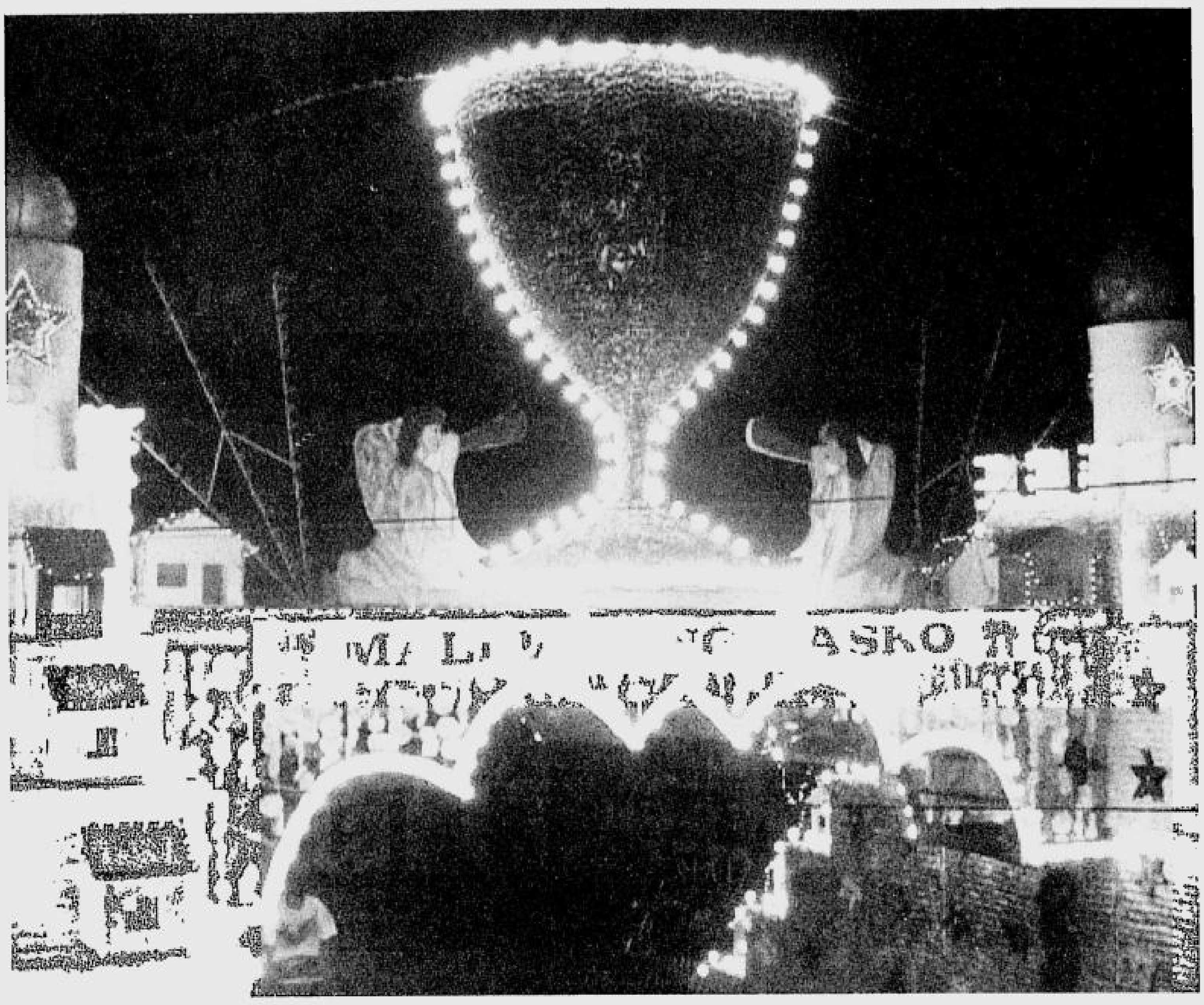
Not your usual Christmas in Tangub

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Tangub City



CHRISTMAS is in the air as Tangub City opens its Christmas Symbols festival. RYAN D. ROSAURO

THE YULETIDE season has officially started as Tangub City, the country's Christmas Symbols capital, opened its annual Christmas Symbols Festival on Dec. 1 in a ceremony witnessed by some 20,000 people from across Mindanao.

The Yuletide air literally swept the city and reverberated throughout the island as a spectacle of color and artistry was unveiled, transforming the two-hectare public plaza and local government center into a holiday theme park. The event was capped by a splendid 30-minute fireworks display.

The festival is a much-awaited tourism event in Mindanao and amid threats of renewed violence, organizers hope it will inspire people of the beleaguered island to surmount difficulties by attaining greater unity and working harder in order to achieve peace and progress.

"We aim to give hope to those who lost hope, inspire (people) to dream big dreams," remarked lawyer Philip Tan, chair of the city tourism council.

Saying the festival is a "love offering" and "a product of hard work and sacrifice," Tan said the magnificent scenes on display showcased the importance of unity in realizing a purpose.

Mayor Jennifer Wee-Tan said every light that made up the wonderful sights "symbolizes love, hope and commitment to service."

An ecstatic Sen. Loren Legarda, who was guest of honor during the unveiling rites, likened the festival's attraction to theme parks such as Disneyland and the Enchanted Kingdom. She praised the creativity and unity evoked in putting these up as a good example for the rest of the country.

Main attraction

Going on for 11 years now, the festival is actually a contest in four categories. The main category that produces the top attraction is on the 15 booths sprawled all over the plaza. Situated in a 20-meter-by-15-meter area, each booth is created by a cluster of employees of national and local government offices in the city.

Taken together, the booths are a plethora of diverse motifs and inspirations that reflected the diversity of persuasions, interests and tastes of the makers.

This year, the booths much-admired by visitors is the creation of a cluster headed by the agriculture office', which depicted a giant rice plant, and the replica of the globe with the Nativity scene at the center.

The cluster led by the agriculture office won last year's coveted prize with their giant pineapple presentation.

Booths with thought-provoking messages include presentations of a fallen tree, a "Pasko sa Kinaiyahan," and a giant dove set in an immaculate white material and which message of peace rings very relevant.

One booth design had a sunflower accent inspired by a church design in Shenzhen, China, where its chief artist has been to lately. Another booth presents techno-trends Christmas symbols.

And for a second time in a row, the local government retained the replica presentation of the Panguil Bay Bridge, a proposed big-ticket infrastructure project that is expected to spur regional development when completed.

Lanterns

Most of the booths employed native materials, such as corn cobs, coconut husks, bamboo, rice hull and even hardened mud.

Another contest category is the *parol* (lantern) display participated by 28 barangays. The entries adorn the predominantly Christian city's center of faith, the Saint Michael Cathedral compound.

A third category is on Christmas arches along the national highway and major thoroughfares, participated in by 27 barangays. The sight of the arches proclaims the Yuletide message to travelers, provides a comely invitation for visitors, and portends of the greater adventure of lights and Yuletide spirit-inspired art at the plaza.

The fourth category is on the most lighted business establishment in the commercial district. A special award is to be given to the most lighted residential house throughout the barangays.

All the contest entries are judged on creativity, uniqueness, and message.

Humble beginnings

The festival had its humble beginnings in 1992 when the local government set up Christmas booths for plain presentation in order to transform the plaza into a destination where families can gather for some "quality Christmas time" together outside their residence.

Buoyed by the hordes of people who frolicked in the plaza because of the sights, the local government decided to expand the presentations by drawing out local talents in a contest of booths.

Since then, the festival has evoked the creativity there is about the Yuletide spirit as concretized in booth presentations.

It could be said, therefore, that more than finances, artistry and imagination are the indispensable investments that have made the festival a truly Christmas tourism event.

> Mayor Jennifer Wee-Tan said every light that made up the wonderful sights "symbolizes love, hope and commitment to service"

Funding ingenuity

Like the transformation of the craft of coming up with the booths and symbols, bankrolling the festival has developed into an entrepreneurial fashion through the years.

For one, the entrepreneurship that is injected into the festival makes it self-liquidating. It has also infused greater coordination among the logistical resources of the festival.

On an ordinary day, from 8,000 to 10,000 visitors are drawn to the theme park. During judging days or on weekends, the figure almost doubles. The sheer size of the crowd for free is a tremendous engine of commerce.

One activity that generates funds for the setting up of next year's spectacle is the minimal entrance fee of P2 charged for every person entering a booth to view its presentations.

According to Baby Balatero Paler, city tourism officer, the fee has been kept low as a way of avoiding commercialism and encouraging individuals, especially the children, to see the presentations inside each booth, and not worry about paying more.

Another income-generating activity is the *calesa* (horse-drawn carriage) and train rides that snake through the streets. A *calesa* ride costs only P5 for children and P10 for adults, while a train ride costs only P10 for children and P15 for adults.

> The promise of product promotion and marketing has attracted offers for corporate sponsorships

Product display

Still another income earner is the Pasalubong shop managed by a group of employees. The shop sells products developed by the local government-run Technology and Livelihood Development Center, which are up for skills transfer to village-based cooperatives and groups.

The products are made from raw materials raised in the city's agricultural fields and marine grounds. They include dried fish, shrimp fingerlings, mongo and corn chips, fresh cow's milk, and milk bar set in avocado, chocolate and orange flavors.

The promise of product promotion and marketing has attracted offers for corporate sponsorships. This year, the local government has admitted one, and most likely, this mode of financial partnership would expand in later versions of the festival.

Paler disclosed that because of the festival's impact in promoting goodwill, not only among the city residents but also with people from other places, several individuals have been moved to offer donations.

With the innovative financing means adopted, the local government only spends for electricity and prizes.

Small business

Amid the lights and artistry, business is sprouting on the fringes of the plaza. For one, a big crowd is drawn to private-run canteens selling food and drinks.

Ambulant vending, mostly tended in pushcarts, is allowed for certain items, like peanuts and *chicharon* (pork cracklings).

A wide area for parking is provided at a fee of P10 per car. Proceeds are to be distributed equally to personnel manning the grounds.

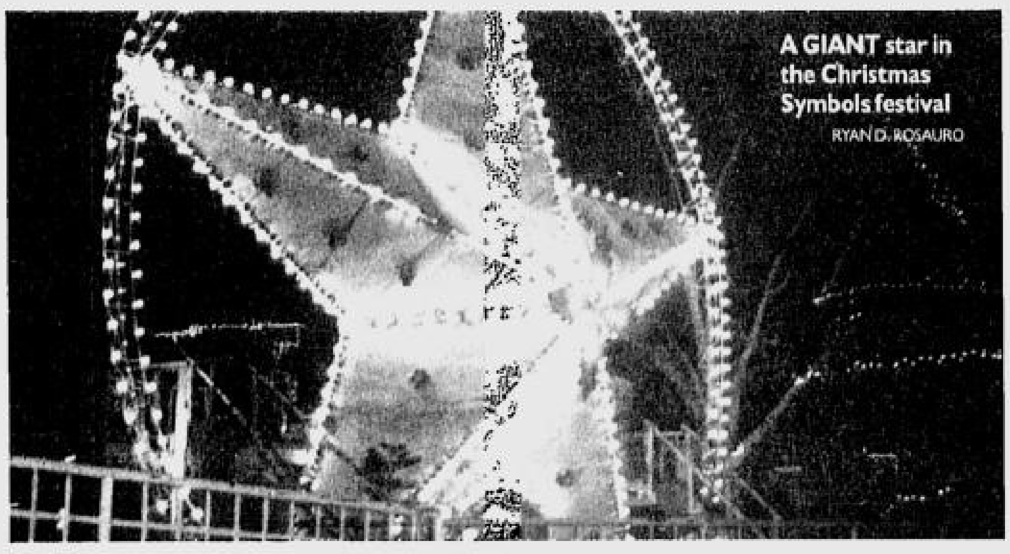
The local government has also made arrangements with transport operators to make their vehicles available to and from the city until midnight.

Passenger outrigger boats are also available in Tubod town for those who have to cross the Panguil Bay from Lanao del Norte and back, in case they fail to catch the last ferry trip at 8 p.m. Security arrangements for the visitors' vehicles are in place in Tubod.

Aside from the Pasalubong center, visitors can shop in the Kamugnaan Fair, which features product displays from Cebu, Bicol, Pagadian City, Batangas and other places.

According to Paler, the city tourism office accepts bookings for those who plan a visit as long as they are made two days in advance. By booking a visit, the tourism office will make the arrangements for accommodation and related services.

The festival runs from December to January, with the awarding of contest prizes in early February.



A GIANT star in the Christmas Symbols festival RYAN D. ROSAURO

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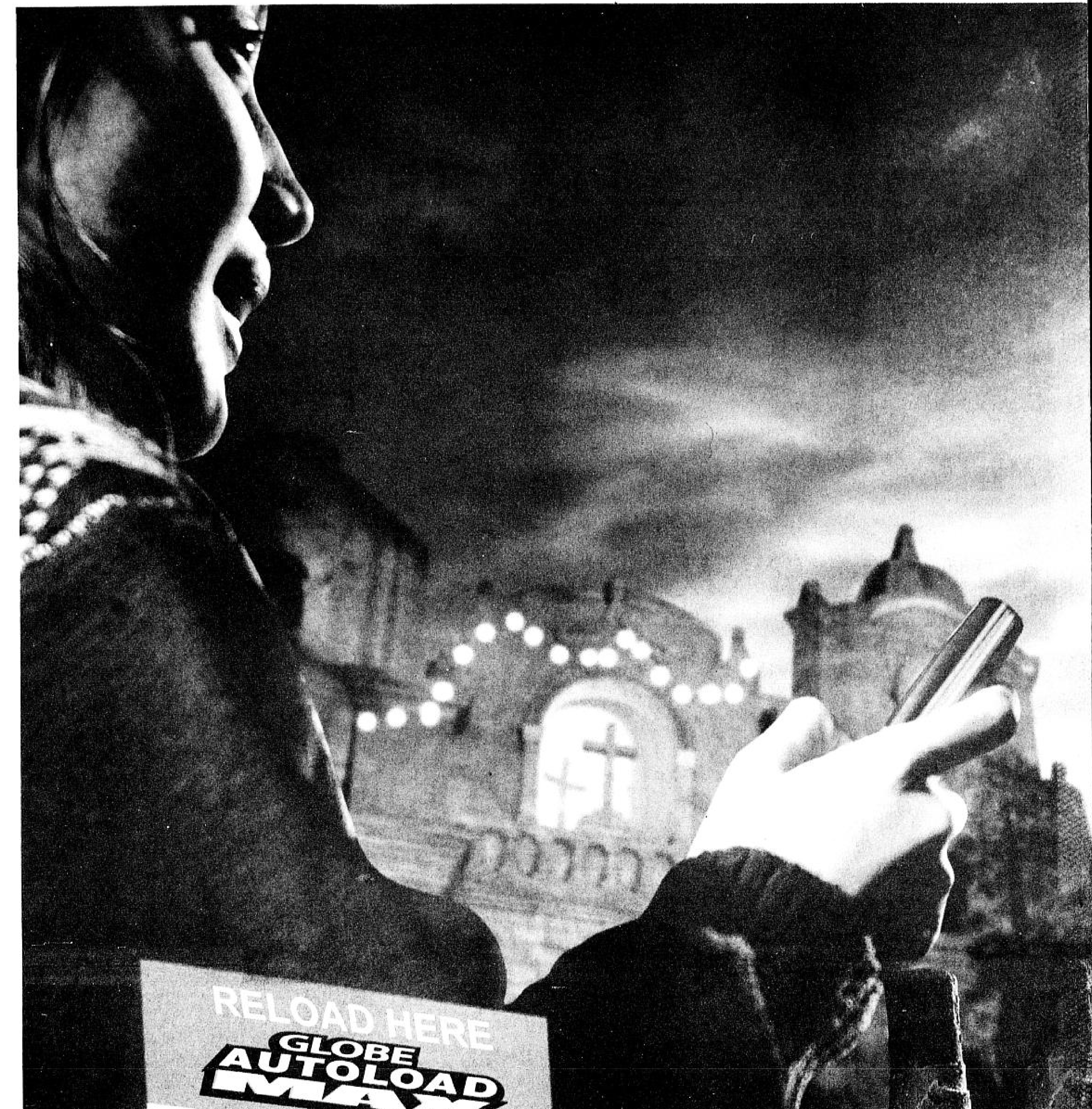
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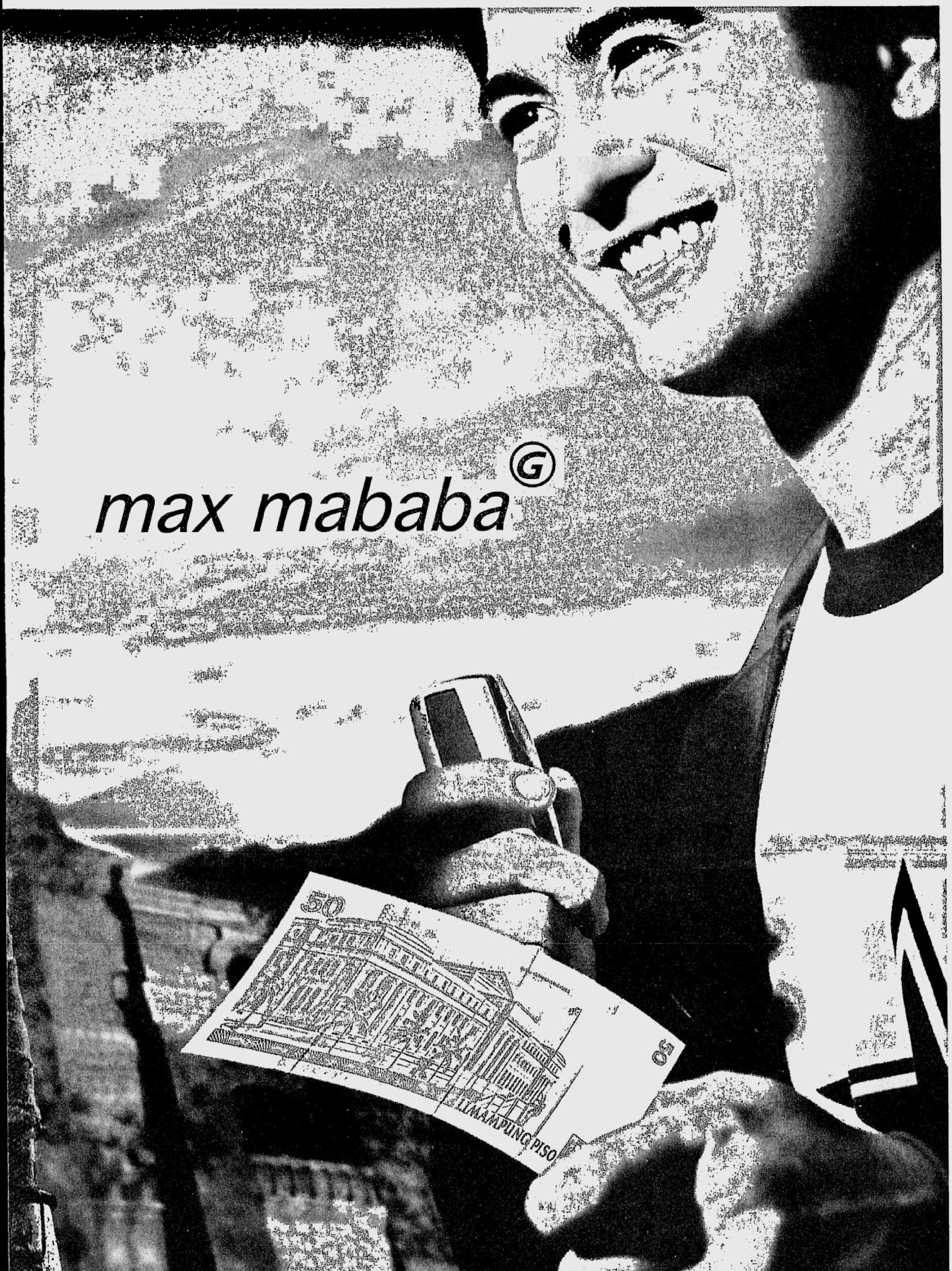

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ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 362
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Plus or minus

EDITORIAL

MORE about surveys. Less than a week after we singled out both Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations for their scientific polls and impressive track record, the latest SWS survey has given us pause. The findings have been startling: a "significant gain" in Fernando Poe Jr.'s ratings from 14 percent in September to 25 in November, landing him in a statistical tie with erstwhile frontrunner Sen. Noli de Castro. But it was not the results so much as the manner they were presented that quickened journalists' instincts.

In the press briefing SWS founder Mahar Mangahas conducted to present the findings, he blithely explained away the sudden surge in the ratings of Poe, who is a first cousin and a close friend of his.

"Lots of people are looking at the events. Maybe news started to filter out he's going to run. Maybe people got excited. These are all maybes," Mangahas said. This is an explanation that does not explain. He pointed out the obvious, that Poe could win the presidential race five months from now, and said, "What more can you read out of these numbers?" This is an interpretation that brooks no other.

We expected more from Mangahas, who has done much to professionalize the conduct of public opinion polls in the country. His remarks may only have been a display of dry wit which reporters failed to appreciate, or a revealing moment of academic hauteur, which those present read as simple condescension.

But the SWS and Mangahas himself have taken pains on other occasions, in other context-sensitive issues, to explain survey findings or to look for alternative interpretations. Some of their earlier surveys were, to put it bluntly, better designed.

To cite only one example: the special survey the SWS conducted in October 2000, after Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson went public with "juetenggate." To more accurately gauge public reaction to what turned out to be President Joseph Estrada's terminal political crisis, the SWS asked three questions about Estrada, "of which the first [its news release noted] ... has four possible answers which differentiate between liking or disliking him as a person, and liking or disliking his policies." The results were more nuanced, and ultimately more accurate.

To the objection that measuring public opinion about a President about to be impeached is qualitatively different from measuring preferences for a presidential candidate, we can only say: Consider the design of the latest Pulse Asia survey. Instead of asking survey respondents to choose their candidate in only one scenario, the Pulse Asia poll asked them to consider several scenarios. Can the public be faulted for finding the Pulse Asia results more credible?

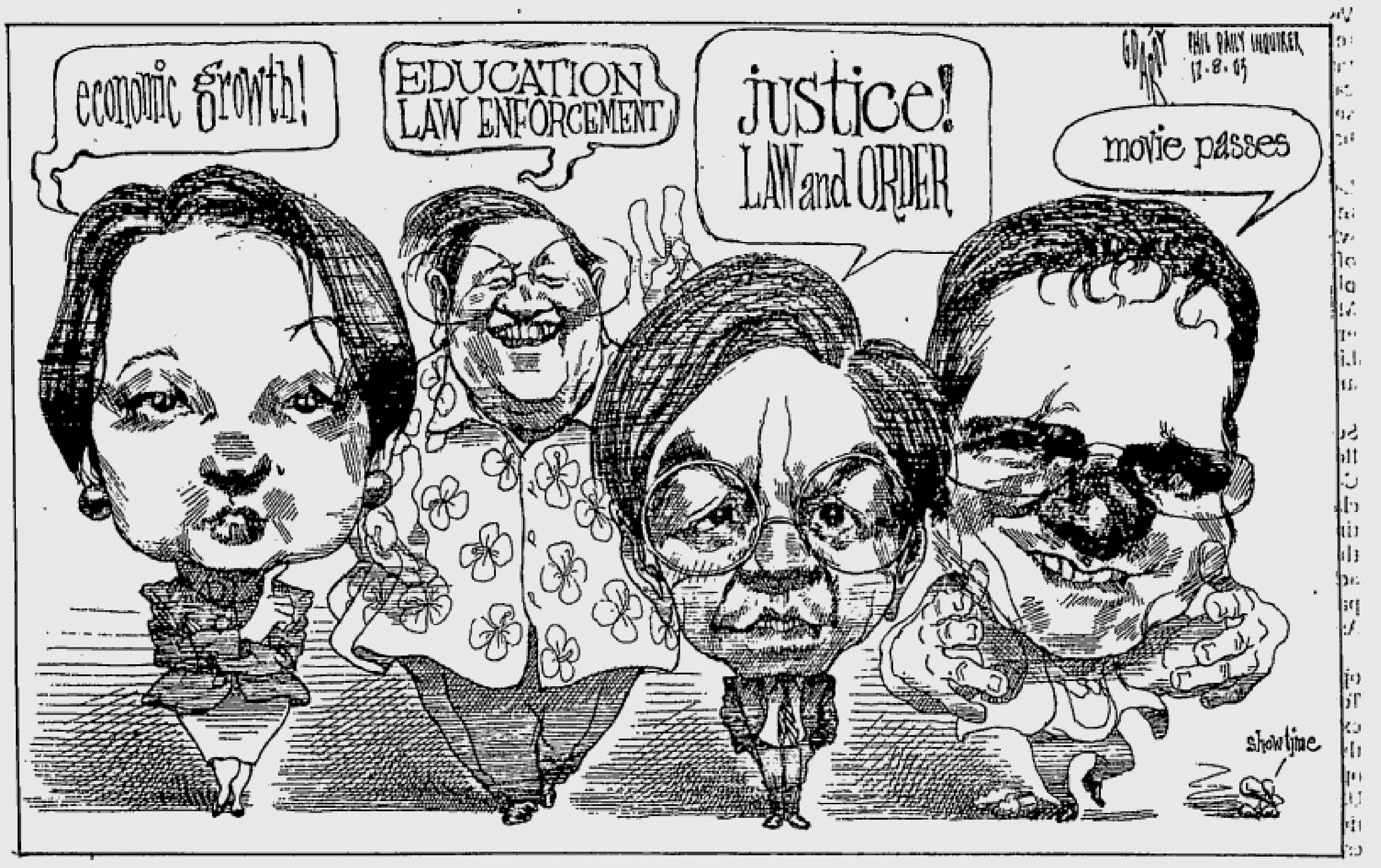
One Pulse Asia scenario comes closest to the single set of assumptions the SWS used. This is the eight-man field of candidates, which Malacañang spinmeisters highlighted because it showed the President leading with 24 percent. The first five in the list correspond exactly to the five candidates the SWS named. The ratings of the last three candidates plus the ranks of the undecided in the Pulse Asia poll add up to 6. In the SWS survey, the "undecided, etc." also account for 6 percent.

From our point of view then, Pulse Asia's eight-candidate scenario is practically the same as SWS' five-man field. But why are the results so different? In that of Pulse Asia, Poe comes in fourth, with 19. In the SWS poll, he is first with 25.

The question the SWS asked, translated from Filipino, is: "Among the names in this list, whom would you most probably vote for as President of the Philippines, if elections were held today?" The Pulse Asia question, also translated from Filipino, runs thus: "Of the people on this list, whom would you vote for as President of the Philippines if the elections were held today and they were presidential candidates?"

Did SWS' use of "probably" create more "waffle room" for the respondents? Is its random sample of "registered voters" materially different from Pulse Asia's sample of "nationally representative adults"? If both are in fact scientific surveys, how can they be accurate at the same time?

Mangahas' failure (or blithe refusal) to explain raises fundamental questions.



Advice to FPJ

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is in a spirit of goodwill that I offer this unsolicited advice to Fernando Poe Jr. Quit before it gets worse for you. You are an innocent beguiled by your supposed friends and advisers for their own selfish purposes. Do not allow them to use you.

You are Da King of Philippine Movies with a respectable image and an honest fortune. Your colleagues in the movie industry acknowledge you as a popular actor and a competent director. Your fans adore you. Be content with your lot, which is much more than many people can enjoy.

Bear in mind that as successful as you are in your chosen field, you are not cut out to sit in Malacañang. The position of President of the Philippines requires more than mere acting ability. Your hysterical supporters may elevate you to that office but you will find yourself like a fish out of water.

Those who say the contrary are only flattering and deceiving you. You should realize you cannot solve the nation's ills with only your make-believe machismo. Only last Sunday, you begged off a confrontation with your rivals on the excuse that you were indisposed with the flu. Did you think people would believe that?

You will find during the campaign that your flu will become chronic. Being represented by proxy—and by the pathetic Tito Sotto at that—will make you and him a laughingstock. Your absence at these meetings will only emphasize your ineptness, your ignorance of serious issues. *Ang Panday* will look timid for not standing up to his enemies.

Even the letter Sotto read for you was dismissed out of hand. Few accepted that you had written it yourself and many chose not to listen to it at all. And my dear *naïf* who would be the President of the Philippines, why would you choose Sotto as your spokesman and adviser? He is a silly figure in a serious world.

Sotto once bullied a security guard for barring entry of his car without a sticker into a village. He threatened to have the poor fellow fired. He said he scolded the man for preventing the poor from visiting their rich relatives—the sheer hypocrisy of it! Was he protecting the poor visitors or the rich relatives?

Your choice of Sotto as your alter ego is itself proof of poor judgment. I dread the other appointments you will make as President of the Philippines.

Who will be your foreign secretary to represent our country in diplomatic meetings? You and your First Lady will undoubtedly make an attractive couple, but what if the talk veers to global economics and international politics? And if you are invited—and this is a big IF—will you dare speak before the US Congress or the UN General Assembly?

Courage is admirable as you have shown in your movies. But presumptuousness is something else.

You are not even a pale imitation of the charismatic Erap. He preferred to mix with the common people, to speak their language and share their jokes. He had that gift to charm the masses, to make them believe he had their welfare at heart while plundering the public coffers. You don't have that kind of appeal.

You are the hero with the staccato punches and the fast lethal bullets, but you are not one with the *bakya* crowd as Erap was. Erap was all man to them and he proved it with his stable of mistresses. They admired and envied him for this. Your extramarital peregrinations, if any, are offset by the vision of your beautiful and virtuous wife. But she makes you less of the lovable scamp Erap was, and is.

With the open support of Sen. Edgardo Angara, you will probably be the standard-bearer of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. You may find, though, that you will be no more than a puppet on a string pulled by your politician managers or a mere dummy mouthing their platitudes. You will be but a stalking horse or like the Trojan horse of that mythical play.

There is strong talk that you are being set up to be only a transition president pending the conversion of the present government into the parliamentary system. The secret scenario is that Eduardo Cojuangco will be the prime minister with you as only the ceremonial head of state. That is why he is reportedly prepared to spend millions for your victory, which will only be his stepping stone to Malacañang.

Are you willing to accept that minor supporting role, you who are acknowledged as Da King of Philippine Movies? After having been elected by direct mandate of the people, will you meekly surrender your primacy to one who has himself been rejected for the position you occupy? More to the point, will you participate in this conspiracy to victimize not only you yourself but the people as well?

In Ralph Waldo Emerson's charming poem, "the mountain and the squirrel had a quarrel, and the former called the latter 'little prig.'" Unfazed, the squirrel retorted, "Talents differ, all is well and wisely put. If I cannot carry forests on my back, neither can you crack a nut."

Learn from this poem, FPJ. Be humble and take pride in your humility. "I think it no disgrace to occupy my space," the squirrel said, and so should you with your respectable fame and affluence. You cannot carry a heavy load as the President of the Philippines, but you certainly can crack a nut.

General cleaning

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A WIFE saw her husband, who is a two-star general, cleaning their car one morning, and took a picture of him. She went on to have the picture put in their family album. Guess what the caption read beneath it? "General Cleaning."

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 3:1-6) is about John the Baptist calling for the forgiveness of sins. In other words, we all should be busy with our personal and communal "General Cleaning" to prepare for the coming of our Lord. We should not only be busy decorating. We must, first and foremost, be busy cleaning that which is within us.

* * *

Speaking of generals, I have Gen. Kit Carreon as a text mate and he once sent me a text message while I was in a bus that read thus: "When you exit this bus, please be sure to lower your head and watch your step. If you fail to do so, please lower your voice and watch your language." Well said. Isn't that what Advent is all about? Is not Advent a time to lower oneself before God, and a time to examine one's steps in this world? Advent should remind us again who we are, and where we are headed. Who do you think you are? Where are you going? What's the bottom line? When we stand before God, you and I are nothing really. And yet we are loved by him. You and I are bound for heaven because that's where God wants us to be. Amen.

* * *

The other half of the above-mentioned text message is about lowering one's voice and watching one's language. This is a very good reminder on how we treat people. Part of our repentance and preparation should be that of being kinder and more loving to people in thoughts, words and deeds. It is not enough to be religious, we must also be spiritual in our day to day lives. It is not enough to be good, we must also be nice and kind. Remember?

* * *

"A voice of one crying out in the desert": I wish we had a John the Baptist to lead us, and to point the way for us at this point in time in the Philippines, here and now. We need someone who has substance, someone who has vision and determination, someone who has a sense of sacrifice. There are a lot of volunteers to lead us, but most of them are there because of ambition, not mission. Not for public service, but self-service. Pray with me that someday, soon (please soon!) "The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God," for our country, for our people.

* * *

"The only difference between in-laws and out-laws is that... out-laws are wanted!" What do we want in this country? Those in the law, or those out of the law? *Ay apo*, what sort of leaders will we elect again come May 2004? Lord, help us.

* * *

Last Nov. 30, Abra paid tribute to the Arnoldus Family to thank the SVD and the SSpS for their spiritual, moral and material contribution to the Abrenians since 1909. Led by Gov. and Ms Vicsyd Valera, the province said "Thank You" for helping make Abra what it is now. It is always good to look back, to be grateful and to be reminded again of the sacrifices, the good works and the inspiration of those who have gone ahead of us.

* * *

There is always a soft spot in the heart of each one of us, and that is the spot which our parents occupy. Dec. 8 is my Mama's birthday, and Dec. 18 is my Papa's birthday. I can't help but be filled with gratitude whenever I remember them. I am sure every parent has dreams and wishes for us. If your parents (wherever they are right now) were looking at you this very moment, will they be smiling at you and be so proud of you?

* * *

Mother knows best. That's true. That's why whenever I pray for my brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, I simply pray: "Lord, may Mama's wish and prayers for this member of the family come true. May God continue to bless all mothers, who wish only the very best for each child."

* * *

See you tomorrow at Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City for the launching of my book "Inquirer Moments" at 5 p.m. and the Art Exhibit of the XVDs and the XVDAs, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at 6 p.m. (don't forget that tomorrow is a Holiday of Obligation). After the Mass we have a real treat: "AVE MARIA," a free concert of classical songs and popular music (7 p.m.) plus the launching of the "Shrine by the Sea" of the Mirant Philippines. We also have a calendar and a few other publications to commemorate the recent canonizations of Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz, which will surely interest you. Please come and pay tribute to Mama Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. It will help you a lot in making a good preparation for Christmas!

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to prepare for Christmas by making a "General Cleaning" now at Advent. Amen.

Tourism and tarsiers

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TRADITION has it that among the ethno-linguistic groups in the country, the stingiest are the Ilocanos of the north. Their counterparts in the Visayas are the Boholanos who are often referred to as the "Ilocanos of the South." With their reputation, one must conclude that there is little one can expect from the other in terms of material support or assistance. But from time to time, life has a way of coming up with surprises.

Last Friday the 11th Kalakbay (Kasama sa Lakbay) Awards were handed out by the Department of Tourism to institutions and individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of tourism by their pioneering spirit and exemplary service in community development. A Manila-born business entrepreneur whose parents came from Ilocos Norte, was bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award by the department and hailed as the "Father of Bohol Tourism."

Anos Fonacier, second-youngest son of the late Sen. Santiago Fonacier, a political kingpin of the Ilocos region during the Commonwealth era and Carmen Jamias, eldest daughter of a prominent clan in the province, was chosen for the "Lifetime" honor for his contributions in making Bohol the No. 1 tourist destination in the Philippines as acknowledged early this year by the tourism department and the Philippine Tour and Operators Association (Philtoa).

Fonacier started out early in the tourist trade, opening up a small organization called Manila Tours in the Sixties. After a few years, in a bid to expand outside of the Metro Manila area, he saw the potential of Cebu particularly with the development and utilization of the Mactan Airport by US forces during the Vietnam conflict. Investing time and effort into tourism-related activities, he established the first five-star hotel in Metro-Cebu, namely the Cebu Plaza, perched high up on the hills with a lovely view of the city below.

During one of the low points in Philippine history, after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, foreign tourists were avoiding the Philippines. In tourism brochures, Fonacier presented Cebu as "An Island in the Pacific" without mentioning Cebu as part of the Philippines, a strategy which resulted in the continued arrival of tourists in the area. He also started bringing in direct chartered flights from Japan, Taiwan and other parts of Asia, which eventually led to scheduled direct international flights from abroad.

As a result of his contributions to the economic growth and development of Cebu City, he was officially declared an "Adopted Son of the City of Cebu" (Resolution No. 1567 dated Feb. 24, 1994).

From Cebu, Fonacier saw the potential of its next door neighbor Bohol and was the first to invest in crucial tourism infrastructure in the province.

Bohol, which derives its name from the village of Bo-ol, near Tagbilaran, has often been looked down upon by the richer and more powerful communities in the region. But its centuries-old churches and beautiful ancestral homes testify to a long and rich history which could easily be the envy of other provinces. Its most famous attraction is the Chocolate Hills, 1,268 haycock hills which are actually green during the rainy season and then turn brown during the dry months; hence, the name.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of Fonacier to Bohol's tourist industry is not so much in what he has built, although this work has been quite substantial, but in what he has endeavored to protect and preserve.

One of the most beautiful eco-marine systems in the world is what is known as the Bohol marine triangle. It is an area roughly covering the islands of Pamilacan, Balicasag and Panglao, and is famous for its whale sharks, stingrays, dolphins and other marine life, all against a stunning background of coral reefs and white sand beaches. It is also a favorite destination of scuba divers. Fonacier was instrumental in bringing together the Philippine Environmental Foundation and the UN Development Program (UNDP), which resulted in substantial financial assistance toward the preservation of the triangle. The lead agency in the project is Silliman University.

Fonacier has also been actively involved in the care and safety of the world's smallest monkey, the tarsier, a native of Bohol's virgin forests. Tarsiers are little creatures with long hind legs, large slender toes and enormous eyes. They are for the most part nocturnal and feed on fruits and insects found in the treetops where they spend their lives. Together with a former director of the Bureau of Parks and Wildlife, Jesus Alvarez, Fonacier was able to cause their being declared a "protected species," with the setting aside of an area in Corella, Bohol as a sanctuary for the animals. They are no longer in danger of extinction.

Today, Fonacier is the chair of the Philippine Tarsier Foundation, protecting one of Bohol's beloved natural wonders. Through his decades of commitment and achievements, the foundations for Bohol's accession to the primary tourist destination status were laid.

A day of culinary discovery

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I THOUGHT my recent "lightning trip" to Bacolod, a one-day "*balikan*" visit to give a talk before the Negros Occidental Provincial Council for Women, would be filled with stress and anxiety, given that it was taking place in the middle of this hectic season.

Instead, it turned out to be a relaxing break, a respite from the daily cares and concerns that tend to overwhelm one in the city.

First of all, I was among friends. The Provincial Council for Women has long championed the cause of women in Negros, seeking to rationalize the work of local women legislators and officials at city, municipal and provincial levels. As part of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence," the PCW was holding a two-day Forum on Violence against Women."

I was invited to give a background on VAW and the need for legislation, at both national and local levels, to address the issue, specifically domestic violence. Later, flying in "straight from Bangkok," as it were, Bacolod Councilor Celia Flor, who had come from an East and Southeast Asian Conference on Legislation on VAW, reported on similar efforts in other countries in the region. It's quite heartening to know that governments around the world have finally recognized the reality (and gravity) of gender-based violence.

On a personal note, I was quite distressed to see "Manang" Winnie Martyr of Sagay City moving about only with the help of a walker. It turns out that Manang Winnie, who is the chair of the PCW, had survived a vehicular accident some months ago, and, as she told me, was now "learning to walk all over again." Despite her disability, Manang Winnie was very much a presence at the forum, carrying out her duties with aplomb. This is truly dedication!

* * *

I EVEN had time to drop by the Negros Showroom, which is a "must" stop in every visit to Bacolod. Looking for an engagement gift for a niece, Fani, who is flying in for a blessing ceremony with her fiancé Jonathan tomorrow, I finally settled on décor items made from laminated wood chips which are truly impressive and could compete with the world's best!

But what really made my very brief stay in Bacolod an idyll from hectic Manila was taking *merienda* at the small café inside the Negros Garden Center next door to the Showroom.

Friends had told me previously about the Garden Café, where "traditional" Negrense *merienda* items are served, and I had planned a visit on my next trip. When I suggested we drop by for a snack, Victorias City Councilor Mary Ann Duran Diño readily agreed, smacking her lips in anticipation.

What I found as we entered the Garden Center was a profusion of plants and flowers, including masses of orchids in the rear of the lot, dazzling the eye with shades of fuchsia and orange. The Garden Café stands in the middle of the greenery, a small cottage painted a friendly shade of yellow. Entering, we found tiny tables clustered around a counter, with cheery framed illustrations of flowers that, we are told, were created by the mother of Millie Kilayko, one of the owners.

* * *

THE SAME cozy, comforting ambience extends to the menu items, many of which are based on recipes treasured by the friends and family of Kilayko and Tima Lacson, the other partner in the "Sweet Greens" enterprise that owns both the Garden Center and the Café.

I wanted to try all the "personalized" recipes but finally had to settle for ube sherbet, a flavor among the range of "Sorbet ni Tita Jeanette," for Jeanette Lacson who developed her line of sherbet to augment the family income after her husband Ed decided to preach full-time. Ube has always been my favorite ice cream flavor, and Tita Jeanette's sorbet is the perfect compromise of rich taste with minimal calories. Refreshing!

"Sardinas ni Papa Daniel" also caught my eye, as the menu related that this was a variation on the justly famous recipe of the late Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson, a cousin of Daniel Lacson Sr. The recipe for bangus sardines, so the menu said, was further improved by Bitay Lacson, former governor of Negros Occidental, and his wife Tima. The bangus, spicy and meltingly soft, went swimmingly with the "Biscocho ni Lola Nitang," after Nitang Locsin-Gamboa who founded the legendary "El Ideal" bakery in Silay.

Mary Ann tried "Bibingka ni Tita Nene," an original recipe of Nene Sarabia who left behind a drawerful of hand-written recipes upon her death, one of which, the one for *bibingka*, was recreated by her niece Tima.

There are many other family heirloom recipes in the Garden Café's menu, but there was only so much room in our bellies. On my next visit, though, I resolved to try the other family recipes, such as "Binacol ni Lola Celsa," "Bas-uy ni Lola Titang," and their coffee, which is apparently so special it deserved an entire page on the menu!

Cheerful company and good food amid the blooms of a garden—could one wish for a better way to spend an afternoon?

* * *

BUT my taste of provincial hospitality was not over, it seems. Fetched by my husband at the airport, we were searching for a place to have a quick dinner when he mentioned a restaurant that serves "Visayan" food at the Pioneer Center in Mandaluyong.

The restaurant turned out to be "Diorama," which is based in Cagayan de Oro and indeed serves dishes that are unique and unusual, at least for sated Manila palates. We tried "Sizzling Chicken Butts," "Caramelized Prawns," which are served with fried rice "wrapped" in scrambled egg, and an unusual "Pochero," described as "sizzling bone marrow topped with gravy." It was a fitting end to a long day, a day of culinary discovery, a respite from the hassles of city life.

Mornings with Julia

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SHE used to say she was Bubbles, the gentlest of the Power Puff girls. Before that she was Po, the sweetest of the Teletubbies. These days she is Piglet, the smallest and wisest of Winnie the Pooh's friends. To Kara, her mother, she is no one else but Julia. But to me, she will always be the little pink lotus bud, the one who reminds me of the cycles of time. She turns 3 on Tuesday.

We begin each morning by watching the goings-on in the garden pond. Some snails are nibbling at the decaying lotus leaves. I lift one of them from its sticky perch, and at once it withdraws into its shell. A few tadpoles are swimming with the fish, while an indifferent frog sits still on a mossy stone. A lizard briskly emerges from the water and momentarily glistens in the sun. Julia points at a yellow butterfly, barely distinguishable from the tiny flowers of the peanut plants.

But the center of our attention, the focus of our daily contemplation of life, is always the lotus. And on this particular day, this magnificent plant offers us not one but three radiant pink flowers. They are all in full bloom, and are about to close, to assume the final pose of half-closed buds swollen with memories of wind and sun. Tomorrow they will be gone.

But my granddaughter and I will be back every morning searching for the promise of another bud. I take as many photographs as I can of each flower from the moment it signals its presence as a tentative bud until its last appearance on the surface of the water as a floating bouquet of tiny pink candles. At certain times of the year, when the water in the pond is rich, the buds come in quick succession. Then we have a hard time telling the flower that was yesterday's bud from the one that came before it.

I tell Julia that she is like a lotus bud. Soon she will be like a radiant flower like her mother and grandmother. And before she realizes it, there will be other lotus buds admiring her and waiting for their turn in the pond. A bit of your mother and your grandmother, I tell her, lives in you, and in turn you will pass this on to those who will come after you. So you see, I say, though the flowers may wilt and die, their beauty is immortal. It reappears in every new bud.

She probably will remember little of this philosophical gibberish when she is old. It does not really matter. Maybe I say these things not so much to her as to the little child inside me whose impossible wish is to witness the birthing and closing of all the lotuses. For I would really hate to miss her own blooming.

But a lotus, in any event, is perhaps hardly the metaphor to associate with Julia. She does not possess its stillness; she is a hyperactive child. She loves basketball, and every morning when every sinew in her body is fully awake, she takes my hand, and orders me: "Lolo, let's shoot the ball."

I have realized that more than shooting the ball into the basket, it is dribbling the ball that is truly difficult for a little child. It requires a synchronicity of movement—the harmonizing of bouncing and dribbling—which can be the most frustrating activity in the world. Julia simply refuses to throw the ball into the basket without dribbling it first. She is slowly mastering this preliminary ritual. I remind her that the main event is the shooting itself, but she will not hear of any suggestion to short-circuit the process. She has an admirable concept of achievement; she rejects any applause or even a consoling remark for failed attempts. But she insists that I bear witness to her every triumph.

I am now convinced that the self of a person suddenly emerges between the ages of 2 and 3. This is the point where the child just matter-of-factly begins to refer to herself as "I" rather than "Julia," for example. From this moment on, she assumes a perspective of her own that is different from that of the adults around her. She is no longer just Julia, the object of others' perception. She is also above all now a subject, a separate "I."

Since June this year, Julia has been attending pre-school. Last week, she surprised her teacher by submitting a drawing with a clear signature at the bottom: "Julia." I don't know if she colored it pink, for that's the color she pairs with her name. She comes to me as I work at my desk, tells me she wants to write, and then proceeds to switch on the laptop computer. She points at the icon for Word and asks me to open it. She types her name on the screen and asks me to color it pink. After that she writes all the names by which she refers to all of us in the house, and we are each assigned a color. We end this ritual by printing the precious document in full color.

Julia's own self, no doubt, has emerged, but this is not yet quite the "thinking ego" of Kant, the one that reflects and remembers and yearns to make an account of its thoughts. I would often ask her what school was like today. She would look at me as if to ask what I meant, and say nothing. Her Lola Karina thinks she might be a natural Buddhist, someone who has learned to live perpetually in the present and who cannot be bothered by the past. It's a romantic view, but I am more inclined to think that the ability to remember and to talk about it is something that is learned.

Sometimes I feel I am spending more time with Julia than I ever did with my own children when they were growing up. But I know this is just an impression. Every time I look at my granddaughter, glimpses of her mother at play return to me with the vividness of a lotus in full bloom. This recurring sensation humbles me and reassures me of life's enduring capacity to renew itself.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

A day at the LTO

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

A SHORT visit to the Muntinlupa City branch of the Land Transportation Office has convinced me that government service can be courteous and efficient if the bureaucracy wills it.

Last Monday, I went to the LTO to renew my driver's license. Having read stories of graft and corruption in that office, I psyched up myself to be patient with the LTO personnel I would deal with along the way.

The first thing that caught my attention when I drove to the LTO compound was its wide parking area. It was a far cry from most LTO offices in Metro Manila where parking space is a premium and motorists are forced to park their cars on side streets. This means leaving the cars to the care of "watch your car" boys or, if none are available, risking the loss of side mirrors or radio antennas to roving thieves.

Surprise, surprise! I was not accosted by "fixers" or people who offer to expedite transactions with the LTO for a fee. In times past, they openly plied their trade in the presence of LTO officials as if to show that's how things are done in that office. Not that I missed them, but their absence was too glaring not to be noticed.

The other thing that caught my attention was the cleanliness of the surroundings. I did not see overflowing garbage cans or piles of cigarette butts and discarded paper that are common sights in government offices where a lot of people transact business. I got the feeling that the janitorial company hired to clean the place was being paid on time so its employees were doing their work properly.

Unsure about how to go about the renewal process, I looked around for a billboard or notice that would explain the steps to enjoying three more years of driving privileges. There was none. Apparently, the LTO assumes that motorists already know the procedure by heart or it does not have a budget for that material.

Medical tests

A security guard was kind enough to point to me the medical testing office, which is the starting point of the renewal process. First step is the urine test to check for the use of prohibited drugs or substances. The attending clerk emphatically said I should wash my hands thoroughly before filling up the urine container. There must be a correlation between clean hands and drug testing so I did not pursue my curiosity about that directive.

In front of the toilet was a prominent sign instructing its users "not to close the door." Obviously, the prohibition is aimed at discouraging the switching of urine samples by people with substance abuse problems. But what about female drivers? Would they agree to that arrangement? Perish the thought of inquiring further, I told myself. I'd let the feminists handle that problem.

After paying the P300 testing fee, I moved to the next door for the eye proficiency test. From five feet away, I was asked to read the letters on a chart and tell the color of certain shapes. I found the test amusing because the person conducting it was telling the correct answers in the presence of others who were waiting for their turn to be tested.

Then came the blood pressure check-up. For what reason it was being conducted, I didn't bother to ask. I might just be disappointed with the answer. A digital monitor was strapped to my wrist for this purpose. The attending clerk, who did not strike me as a doctor or nurse, took a quick look at the reading and wrote something on a piece of paper that turned out to be a receipt for the P50 I had to pay for the test.

Photo shoot

After completing what looked like a medical examination, I was directed to another window to fill up a form. It was a good thing I brought a ballpen because none was available for the use of those who did not bring one with them. I cannot blame the LTO for not making that provision because, like toilet paper in government restrooms, they are bound to disappear at the wink of an eye.

After submitting the form and my old driver's license, I waited for my name to be called. I sat on one of the plastic chairs that lined the front of the office. The behavior of the waiting crowd was remarkable. I did not hear loud conversations or expressions of impatience. The people quietly stood up and fell in line as their names were called over the public address system.

Halfway through the newspaper I was reading, my name was called and was asked to go to a certain window to pay the required fees. I gave the cashier an amount that was closest to the fee payable. I anticipated that he would tell me he does not have exact change and offer to make up for the difference by giving me candies, as is the practice in many department stores. I was wrong. I got my change down to the last centavo. Hey, I asked myself, is this for real?

From the cashier, I went to a window that was constructed to function as a photo studio. With a thick cardboard as the background, a digital, computer-linked camera took my picture. When the attending clerk saw the shot was good enough, she asked me to affix my signature on a digital pad. That done, she told me to go to the adjoining window to await the release of my license.

Efficiency

Hardly had I warmed my seat when I heard my name called out in the nearby window. After identifying myself, an employee handed me my brand new driver's license complete with my photo, signature and the other personal data I wrote in the form I accomplished earlier.

It took one hour and 10 minutes to complete the entire process. And to think that I started late in the morning and there were many applicants ahead of me. Wow! So different from the practice before of issuing a temporary license good for 60 days and the driver had to come back once or twice to get his real license.

I was practically in a daze when I examined my new license. It's been a long time since I have done business with a government office and get positive results without being hustled by unscrupulous elements or having to deal with employees who think the public owe them a debt of gratitude for attending to their needs.

There is no question the computerization of LTO records and procedures accounts to a large extent for the efficiency of its license renewal services. But computers are just machines. They are useless without the right people operating them in the manner that they have been programmed to work. Obviously, the LTO has come up with the perfect combination of personnel, systems and facilities to give the public the service it deserves, at least as far as renewal of driver's licenses is concerned.

Inconsequential my experience may seem to be, I intend to savor it. Small miracles don't happen every day.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Can FPJ make a good president?

The upper and middle classes, prime movers of Edsa I and II, have expressed serious doubts about the capacity of actor Fernando Poe Jr., a presidential aspirant, to run the country.

They point to his lack of experience in politics and his being a high school dropout. Some note that Joseph Estrada, himself from tinseltown, was better qualified than Poe. Although Estrada was a college drop out, he held several elective posts—mayor, senator and vice president—before he became the official resident of Malacañang.

Asked why he was running for president, Poe said, "I'm sincere, dedicated, and I love my country." He said his lack of experience in politics might just work in the country's favor. "Maybe I can do something because I am not a politician."

His answer was not good enough for the "educated." Some are voting with their feet. The possibility of a Poe presidency as early as the start of the year has been cited by some medical professionals as one reason they are leaving the country for the United States and other countries that offer a better life for their children.

For those who can not leave, who have remained poor despite the country being run by a *hacendera*, a general, and an economist, rooting for another popular actor whom they can identify with may be their best hope for improving their lives. Because elections are not won by the "quality" but by the number of votes, whom the poor will support in May will win the presidency.

Sincerity, clean hands not enough

By Jose Eleazar R. Bersales
Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of San Carlos, Cebu City

It is tempting to imagine whether FPJ will be any different from his bosom buddy Erap who, like him, comes from tinseltown riding on the coat-tails of the movie-loving *masa*. Assuming the Filipino electorate is willing to give another citizen of the movie world a shot at the presidency, FPJ will have to be more than what his supporters project him to be: sober, sincere and squeaky clean, with an undoubtedly pretty First Lady to boot.

FPJ will have to contend with the ever-widening gap between the very few rich and the teeming masses of the poor. This has been brought in part by policies of past presidents that, instead of leveling the economic and political playing field, narrowed it down to suit the interests of those beholden to power. Indeed we need sincerity and clean hands, as it were, to run the presidency. But these qualities are not enough as the Aquino presidency has so glaringly shown us.

Poverty

What we need is a president who will divest himself of all personal and political interests, devoting all his energies instead to laying the foundations for addressing poverty and inequality head-on. No president will ever eradicate these ills in six years but the president that follows him will be better off because of such a legacy.

FPJ can begin by putting real teeth and claws to Erap's *walang kai-kaibigan, walang kama-kamag-anak*, a battle cry lost in the thick of favoritism and the *bata* system that eventually led to Erap's downfall.

Within his first 100 days, the so-called honeymoon period with the press, FPJ will have to begin looking for fundamental solutions to landlessness, lawlessness, joblessness and corruption and start searching for lasting peace. If he is to be continuously perceived as sincere while in power, he will have to demand the same from the people whom he will appoint to work with him in order to carry out his programs and plans.

Corruption

He will have to weed out corruption by setting the example himself, together with his cabinet officials. He will have to chart a foreign policy distinct from the interests of the United States. Right now, FPJ should better study the sad commentaries on Philippine society, politics and the economy. If not, he will be shocked to see the kind of work cut out for him.

The fear and uneasiness that now reverberates through a large sector of the business community regarding a potential FPJ presidency should compel FPJ to study the Erap presidency carefully and see where it went wrong.

Sardines

He must avoid the pitfalls of deluding himself that the *masa* will remain loyal to him as long as he doles out bags full of sardines and rice every now and then. The *masa* have been insulted enough with all these electoral promises made from time immemorial only to be broken once the power brokers that send presidents to Malacañang begin collecting their political debts. Alas, this too is the tragedy of the Macapagal presidency, coming to power with so much promise of hope only to turn into the same old boys' club.

Given FPJ's patent inexperience at politics, the question to be asked should be, will he be any different? The people around him who are now beating the drums for his presidential campaign unfortunately betray the fact that Filipinos will not be able to expect much from him. In the final analysis, it will take strong personal will on the part of FPJ not to succumb to the murky world of Philippine politics, a world marked by political wheeling and dealing at the expense of the *masa*.

He'll go a long way with his kind heart

By Helen Gamboa
Actress

I feel that it's too early to give comments about Fernando Poe Jr. but I believe that he will make a good president. *Importante sa tao ang may puso* (Compassion is important to people). He has a kind heart, so he will go a long way.

Napakabait n'yang tao (He's very kind). I've known him since I was young and he hasn't changed a bit. I know this because I did many movies with him. I take off my hat to him.

I remember the times when people approach him on the set in some of his movies to seek help from him. This is a common occurrence. I see in Ronnie the passion to help people—I see only kindness in him. He never grows tired of helping others. He has an innate need to give to other people.

I'm not forcing anybody to believe me. I don't really know much when it comes to politics. I leave that to my husband (Poe's spokesperson Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III). I will support my husband all the way.

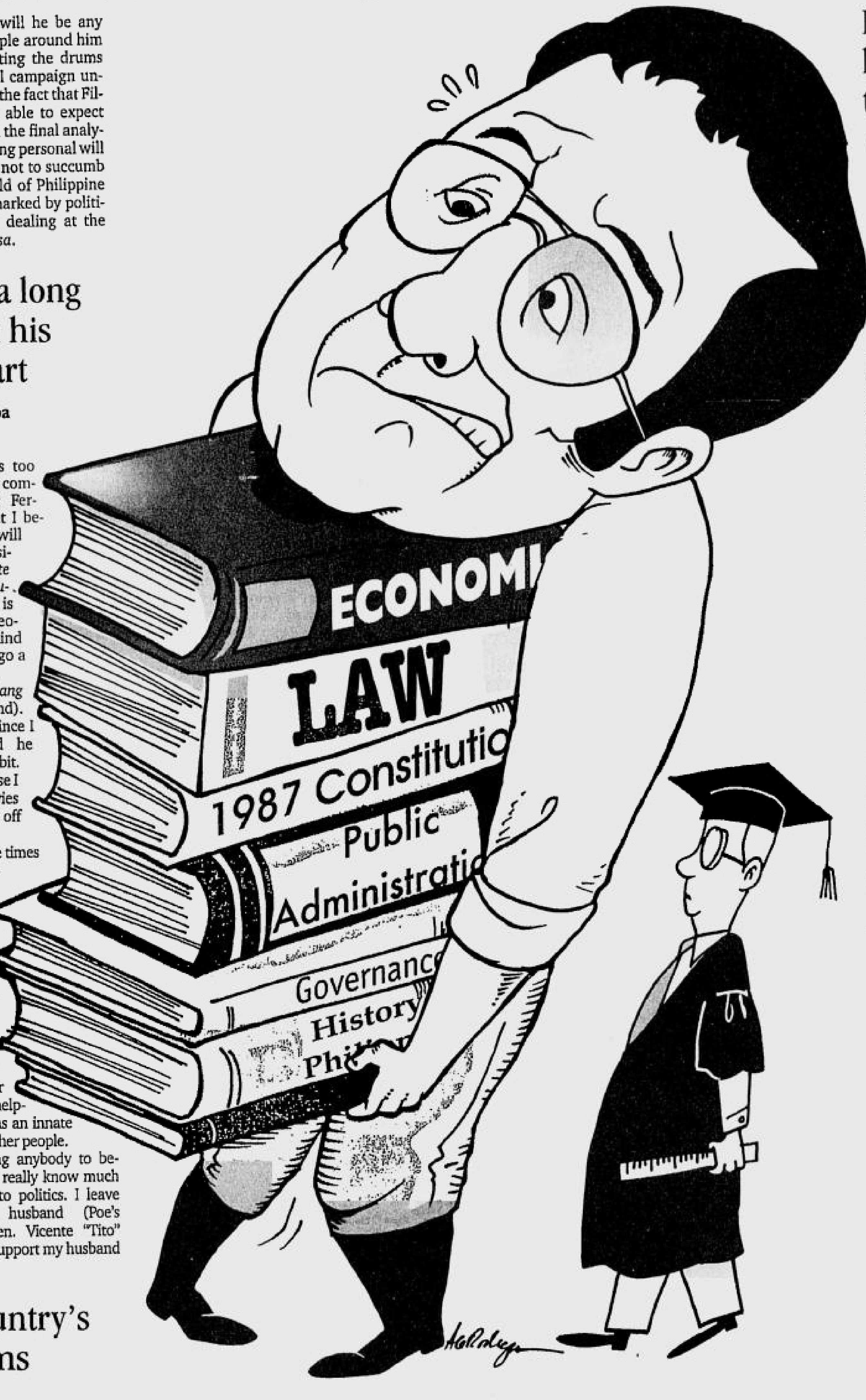


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

The country's problems are too intractable

By Earl G. Parreño
Member, board of trustees
Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms

My answer is no, but not because he lacks a college degree or he is too inexperienced politically. His inability to run this country well, if ever he gets elected president in May 2004, has more to do with the extremely partisan nature that Philippine politics. The strife and ineptitude that undermined attempts by past presidents at socio-economic and political reforms will not go away with Fernando Poe, Jr.'s election to the highest post of the land.

In this context, President FPJ will have a very difficult time controlling his government. He may not even be able to control the party or parties that adopted him for the elections.

The country's problems are too intractable. People are worried by the lack of jobs, rising prices of food and clothing and the high cost of shelter, education and medical care. They are apprehensive of the rising crime rates, corruption in government, terrorist attacks and other problems facing the nation. People want change.

Sadly, post-Marcos dictatorship presidents just do not wield absolute authority to order change. Presidents have to get the cooperation of Congress to formulate policies and allocate the budget and the local governments to implement the programs. Thus, even if they are truly sincere in effecting reforms—even if they are truly independent and honest (as Poe claims he is)—presidents still have to seek approval and cooperation from both their political allies and foes.

Discontent

Presidential power, lessons from the past tend to show, can effectively be wielded amid extreme partisanship by someone who is widely acceptable to the public and who has great persuasive power over both allies and foes. Public acceptability and the power to persuade are closely linked. If the public likes the president, his political foes would likely go along with his agenda. Unfortunately, this is always temporary because at the slightest hint of discontent by the public the political opposition will most likely launch an all-out attack to destroy him.

Partisan

Poe, or for that matter anyone who is seeking the presidency, must contend with this extremely partisan nature of Philippine politics. And he has to realize that no president has ever maintained a consistently high public approval rating for the whole duration of his or her term. No president (from Corazon Aquino to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, if we consider only the post-Marcos dispensation) has ever been free from partisan attacks aimed at bringing down his or her government.

One ominous portent for Poe is his ongoing struggle with Sen. Panfilo Lacson for the nomination of the opposition standard bearer. From all indications, neither of them wants to slide down and just be the vice-presidential candidate of the so-called United Opposition. Both are determined to run for president, no matter what.

Backers

But it is not just the Da King's decision, or Ping's, that will matter in this struggle. Their respective supporters, especially their financial backers, will also be crucial. In fact, they will be playing a more important role in the decision. And from the looks of it, the business and political interests of their supporters are just irreconcilable.

Thus, the negotiations between the two camps will not resolve anything. Da King will run against Ping—and against Ms Macapagal and Raul Roco.

Granting that Poe's popularity with the *masa* successfully carried him through the campaign, what will happen next?

The camps of the defeated candidates would go along with Poe's agenda for a while. At the first sign that his popularity is waning, they—separately or in alliance—will pounce to destroy him.

Can Poe be a good president? With our extremely partisan political culture, no one can be good enough.

He should learn from the mistakes of Erap

By Dr. Macario D. Tiu
Professor, Humanities Division
Ateneo de Davao University

If FPJ inevitably becomes president, here's an unsolicited advice on how he can become a good president. He must have a clear vision of how to eradicate poverty in the country. He should not surround himself with political and social leeches. Rather he should surround himself with experts who can help him carry out an aggressive plan to industrialize our country and finally destroy feudal relations in the countryside. More industries mean more jobs, more jobs mean prosperity.

Can FPJ do this? Our so-called "more qualified" presidents have been dismal failures, who talked big but delivered nothing. And their academic degrees are impressive. So this talk about qualification is useless and good intentions are not enough.

My view is that nobody, no matter how brilliant, can solve the problems of the country. Unfortunately, we rely too much on a strong leader whose followers are united by his charismatic personality, so that when he goes away from the scene, we are left with nothing but the skeletons of such political parties as the KBL, Laban, LAMP.

For FPJ to be successful, he should have a vision, a platform of development, around which he can mobilize patriotic Filipinos to work selflessly for the country and lift it from poverty.

He should be able to transform his mass appeal into a real political force. He should learn from the experience of Erap who wasted the goodwill of the people by becoming drunk with power, and listening only to praises.

A leader need not be a degree holder

By Ruffa Gutierrez
Actress

I believe that he can be a good leader because he's honest. I've known FPJ since I was a kid. Never has he done anything to hurt anyone. I'm speaking based on his track record and reputation in the entertainment industry. If he can do for the whole Philippines what he has done for this industry, then this country will surely prosper.

An effective leader doesn't have to be a high school or college graduate. Being an effective leader means setting a good example. FPJ is an honest and very disciplined man and so far, he has already set a good example to the youth.

If he believes that he will make a good president, then we must trust him because it's true.

I have yet to decide whom I'm going to support in the 2004 elections. All of them are my friends: Sen. (Panfilo) Lacson is my *ninong*, while (former Education Secretary) Raul Roco and FPJ are my godfathers, too. It's very difficult for me to decide. Maybe the best thing for me to do is to listen and find out what they can offer to the people through their platforms. *Gamboa and Gutierrez were interviewed by Marinel R. Cruz*

This web designer knows only 'this ability'

"THE PROBLEM starts with the word 'disability,'" says Dickoy Magdaraog. "So, I said to myself that I would spell it differently ... because all of us have abilities. The only ones that do not are dead people." JOHNNY VILLENA

From page A1

ence heart problems because of the weakening of the cardiac muscles and usually die before they reach the age of two.

In Dickoy's case, he started exhibiting symptoms when he was 10.

Luckier than most

But rather than curse his fate, which has bound him to a wheelchair since he was 16, Dickoy feels that he is not only luckier than most but also living a full life—a rare attitude among people with disabilities.

"I think the problem starts with the word 'disability' itself," Dickoy tells the INQUIRER in an interview. "There is a negative connotation that says something like 'no ability.' So I said to myself that I would spell it differently, I prefer to call it 'THIS ability,' because all of us have abilities. The only ones that do not have abilities are dead people."

Burden becomes asset

This is the main reason Dickoy is willing to put in at least twice the effort of a "normal" person to do his work as a web designer. He says it gives him a sense of self worth, even if what he earns is not enough to cover his medical expenses.

"If I just stopped and said, 'Mom, Dad, I don't want to work anymore because it is getting too hard,' then I would become a burden," he says. "By contributing something, which is always better than nothing, a burden becomes an asset and people are more willing to help you because you prove that you are worth helping."

Wonderful parents

Dickoy attributes his mind-set and outlook in life to his parents—Vic, who works for SGV Development Dimensions Inc., and Cynthia, who runs a school for caregivers.

"They have been really wonderful and supportive. They could have easily kept me at home because I have this progressive disease, but they did not. They kept me in school," says Dickoy, who holds a degree in industrial design from De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde.

Dickoy also gives special thanks to his younger brother Stevie, who, despite being known in the family as a heavy sleeper, would instantly get out of bed at least twice or thrice a night when he calls. During those times, Stevie helps Dickoy turn over to ease the pain in his muscles.

"I examined my life when I realized that I have this disease, and I saw that there is a lot of good," says Dickoy. "And this compensates for all that I have lost. I found God and I have my family, and they have never abandoned me."

Biggest crush

He also feels lucky to be surrounded by caring friends.

He remembers one, a friend in Kostka school, who often took Dickoy on his back and ran up and down the stairs with him to make sure that they would get to their classes on time. By then, Dickoy was already finding it difficult to walk.

And at a restaurant recently, another friend gave Dickoy the thrill of his life by calling over to their table celebrity Heart Evangelista—who happens to be Dickoy's biggest crush—so he could have a picture taken with her.

Dickoy first noticed that something was wrong when he was about 10 years old.

He saw that he could no longer run as fast as the other children, or keep with his friends' activities, when before then he was like any other normal kid with seemingly boundless energy for play.

At first he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. But the prescribed treatments did not help, and he felt worse.

By the time he was 19, the 5'7" Dickoy was down to an alarming 60 pounds and was having trouble breathing on his own.

Thanks to the Internet and e-mail, Vic Magdaraog was able to do some research on the symptoms that his son was displaying. He scoured the medical websites and corresponded with various people until he was referred to a physician in New York.

Dr. Alfred Slonim, who was then conducting research on people with the same characteristics as Dickoy, asked to see the young man.

San Francisco

The Magdaraogs decided to take their son for medical treatment in the United States, fearing that he would wither away and die without them knowing what was wrong with him.

Dickoy says the 14-hour trip to San Francisco was a harrowing experience. He passed out a number of times, and the oxygen that the cabin crew gave him made his condition even worse because his body could not convert the oxygen to carbon dioxide fast enough.

"We went straight to the San Francisco hospital emergency room when we touched down," he recalls.

Battery of tests

The doctors put Dickoy through a battery of tests including a muscular biopsy, which firmly established that he had Pompe Disease, and not muscular dystrophy.

They were also able to get him well enough to travel to New York and to meet with Slonim—a kind-hearted man, Dickoy says—who immediately put him in the research ward of the New York University to get baseline data on his condition.

But by then the carbon dioxide level in his body was near cardiac-arrest level, Dickoy recalls. He had to be put in the intensive care unit for a couple of days, and then in the research ward again for a few days.

After that, he was declared "too sick" to be enrolled in the research program.

Dickoy, however, was prescribed a high-protein, high-fat diet to bring up his weight from 60 pounds to at least 105-110.

He says the diet is expected to slow down the progression of the disease—the best that the doctors can do in the absence of a cure.

'God loves me'

But Dickoy is not about to stop living just because there is as yet no available cure. On the contrary, he says, he tries to squeeze in as much as he can in a day, because he does not know if there will be another day for him.

And he has God to thank for having lasted this long, he says.

"I believe that God really loves me, and everything that has happened to me so far came into place because of Him," Dickoy declares. "I believe that the reason He made me this way was that He wanted me to learn something about Him, and it took this to help me realize that."

Still dreaming

He does not give up hope that a cure for Pompe Disease will be found.

He says research for a cure—such as enzyme and gene replacement—is proceeding at an aggressive pace in the United States and Europe. He says a cure should be in the market in one or two years.

"I will just have to keep myself strong enough until then because I still dream, and right now one of my biggest dreams is to have a family," says Dickoy.

"I don't want them to suffer with me," he adds. "That is why I work like I do—so I would be able to earn enough to support a family. But if God will take me, then it is OK because I have had a good life."

For more information on Pompe Disease, contact Dickoy Magdaraog at 0920-9064853.

Danding is for GMA, says House supporter

By Cynthia D. Balana

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco will support President Macapagal-Arroyo in next year's presidential election now that he is officially out of the race, despite reports that he was bankrolling the candidacy of opposition aspirant Fernando Poe Jr.

This did not come from Cojuangco himself but from one of his most ardent supporters in the House of Representatives.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras said Cojuangco relayed this message personally to him during Friday's meeting of the Nationalist People's Coalition at his home in White Plains, Quezon City.

"Danding will support GMA. He said that to me last night. He said he was more inclined to support GMA than any other candidate," Paras told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Paras said that Cojuangco had allowed NPC partymates to choose their own candidate, adding that the businessman's support for the President was personal.

"In short, there was still no party commitment because the NPC as a party is still evaluating offers from other political parties," he said.

Paras, a member of Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats came under fire from partymates for pushing for the candidacy of Cojuangco. He said there were 49 other Lakas congressmen who had pledged to support Cojuangco should he run for president.

"But now that Danding is officially out of the race, I'm duty-bound to support GMA being a Lakas member. After all, I'm still a Lakas member and party provincial chair despite reports that I had already been removed," he stressed.

Paras clarified that he made a pledge to support Cojuangco for president only after the President said last year that she was not running for president anymore.

He said he had resigned from Lakas at the height of the impeachment issue against Chief Justice Hilario Davide but this was rejected by Speaker Jose de Venecia, the party president.

Late last month, he said, no less than the President talked to him during her visit to Negros Oriental to win him over again.

"She asked if she can extend her hand of reconciliation with me. I said, 'Who am I to refuse her offer of reconciliation? After all, I have nothing personal against her," Paras said.

Paras also said he decided to stay with the party because De Venecia was "a very good friend of mine."

As for the 49 other Lakas members who earlier joined him in pushing for a Cojuangco presidential candidacy, Paras said he was sure that none of them went for presidential aspirant Raul Roco.

He said that while he had not talked to any of them, some may support Ms Macapagal while others may be convinced to support the party's standard-bearer.

FPJ is opposition coalition's official candidate

From page A1

Dec. 10.

A fourth group, the People's Reform Party of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, will soon be joining the opposition coalition and support its common candidate, Enrile said.

Reality

Asked whether the committee's decision was the end of the selection process for the opposition standard-bearer, Enrile said: "That is the reality of the present situation."

"FPJ has sought the support of the united opposition. When we formed the coalition, we assumed he was a part of the opposition formed within the coalition," he said.

In justifying the selection of Poe, Angara admitted that it was a "judgment call" on his part and that of the leaders of the coalition.

"You have to make a decision at a certain point. I think that's essential in any organization," said Angara.

He said Poe would be formally proclaimed on Dec. 10, but the announcement of the vice presidential candidate and the senatorial slate would come later.

Poe has yet to be informed of his selection but the action star would be very happy to hear the news, said Sotto, his campaign manager.

Housekeeping

The issue of the opposition standard-bearer being settled, Angara went about putting the LDP house in order.

Finally breaking his silence on the fierce infighting in the party he founded, Angara said he had refused to be embroiled in a word war with the Lacson camp as he needed time to organize the united opposition.

"Now that the entire opposition has been organized and the unification is finished, [we will] take care of internal problems," he said.

He forced Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, the LDP secretary general, to take a leave of absence starting yesterday.

Aquino on leave

Angara declared that the indefinite leave was needed because Aquino, who supports Lacson, had been "sniping [at and] taking on the leadership of LDP."

He said Aquino had sowed "confusion and chaos," making it appear that the LDP had two heads.

Former Ambassador Enrique Zaldivar was named acting LDP secretary general.

Angara also announced that Rep. Rolex Suplico had "just been expelled effective immediately" by the LDP's regional chapter for Western Visayas.

Suplico and Rep. Abraham Mitra had demanded the resignation and expulsion of Angara whom he accused of "disloyalty to the party, gross violation of the party constitution and the other divisive acts inimical to the interest of the party and its members" for refusing to support Lacson, an LDP member.

Consensus

Enrile said the selection of Poe was arrived at after consultation with the coalition officials, including ousted President Estrada.

He said that the day after the "loose organization" of opposition parties was formally organized last Wednesday, "the splinter group of LDP decided to hold some sort of a convention in Club Filipino and they proclaimed Ping as their candidate."

This made the work of the committee that he headed "inutile" as it was done without consultation with other members of the opposition coalition, he said.

Earlier yesterday, Estrada asked Lacson to submit himself to the selection process and abide by its results.

In a telephone interview, Estrada warned Lacson he could end up being considered in "default" if he refuses to go through the process and decides to run for President on his own.

Estrada, the de facto leader of the anti-Macapagal opposition, also announced that he was "endorsing" Santiago and Honasan as possible opposition vice-presidential bets.

He said Santiago had declared yesterday that she wanted to run for vice president. Estrada said the united opposition should also create a selection committee to choose its vice-presidential candidate.

Ferdie Ramos, Estrada's media coordinator and a close confidante of Estrada, said the ousted leader and his Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino were committed to support Poe because of his "winnability."

Secret deal

The Lacson camp yesterday escalated its attack on Angara, accusing him of entering into a secret deal with President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure her victory next May.

In a press conference called by Aquino, Suplico and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday afternoon, Aquino said he suspected Angara's adamant support for Poe was because of this secret deal with Malacañang.

"Maybe instead of uniting the opposition, he is fomenting intrigues and quarrels. For all we know, the intrigues may be coming from Malacañang. We must all watch out. There is too much static," Aquino told a press conference in a mixture of Filipino and English.

But Angara only laughed off the allegation, saying he had worked so hard to get the opposition united that any rumor of an alleged deal with Ms Macapagal was "laughable."

Suplico said there was a "joint venture" between Angara and Malacañang, citing Angara's support for Ms Macapagal's idea of a government of national unity.

Remulla said he was told by several "outsiders who are allied with the administration that Senator Angara is really working with them."

Lacson was conspicuously absent at the press conference held at the Solid Mills in Makati which Aquino said had been called to "clarify about our situation in the LDP."

Angara ignored

Aquino also ignored Angara's decision to expel LDP members who declared Lacson the LDP standard-bearer on Dec. 4.

He said Angara was losing the trust and loyalty of his men, citing the exodus in the last two weeks of party stalwarts most identified with Angara—Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Representatives Jaraula and Amin, Governors Villafuerte of Camarines, Perez of Antique and Lee of Sorsogon, and Raul Ople, provincial LDP chair of Bulacan.

He extolled Lacson as "a legitimate, eminently qualified possible candidate who will stand as the standard-bearer for our party."

Unifying force

From General Santos City, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said only Poe can unify the country and end the constant political squabbling and bickering.

"It is my belief that only a popular president can unify a highly divided nation. And that's FPJ," Imee said.

She brushed aside criticisms of Poe's lack of educational qualifications and political experience.

"It's a fact that he lacks the qualification and experience, but he has a lot of well-meaning advisers. Competence and experience is not an assurance that one could liberate this country from political chaos and economic misery," Imee said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Sen. John Osmeña, a staunch ally of Estrada, said he would consider supporting a presidential candidate whose main concern was for Mindanao. *With reports from Armand Nocum and Aquiles Z. Zonio and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Graft-free Christmas parties urged

From page A1

ment officials and employees holding traditional yearend parties to limit gifts or raffle prizes from private donors to items "of nominal or insignificant value."

CSC chair Karina David said accepting large amounts of cash or expensive goods like appliances from contractors or suppliers—even if these were meant as raffle giveaways—constituted bribery and, therefore, was tantamount to graft and corruption.

This, David warned, was a "grave offense" punishable by dismissal from government service. CSC would be closely monitoring government office parties, she said.

Share food baskets

Food that could be shared by all employees, and grocery gift baskets for raffle prizes were allowed, she said, but only if "unsolicited." She gave an example: *Lechon* to be consumed at the party would be fine, as would corporate giveaways, but not a TV set worth P10,000.

To minimize dependence on outside donors that might result in "conflict of interest," David suggested that government agencies make raffle prices "official" by allotting a portion of their budget for these.

The commission also reminded state workers not to cut short work schedules or leave frontline posts unmanned just to attend Christmas parties. If the celebration must start before off-hours, the directive said, a "skeletal force" should stay on duty.

P6,000-fine

In Makati City, Mayor Jejomar Binay ordered that cabbies who refuse passengers during the holidays be fined P6,000, and those who "contract" fare, P500. He said this was meant to end the practice of "bidding," especially during the busy commuter period.

The mayor requested cab riders to report erring drivers to policemen or personnel of the Department of Public Safety (formerly Mapsa) deployed in the area.

Taxi stands

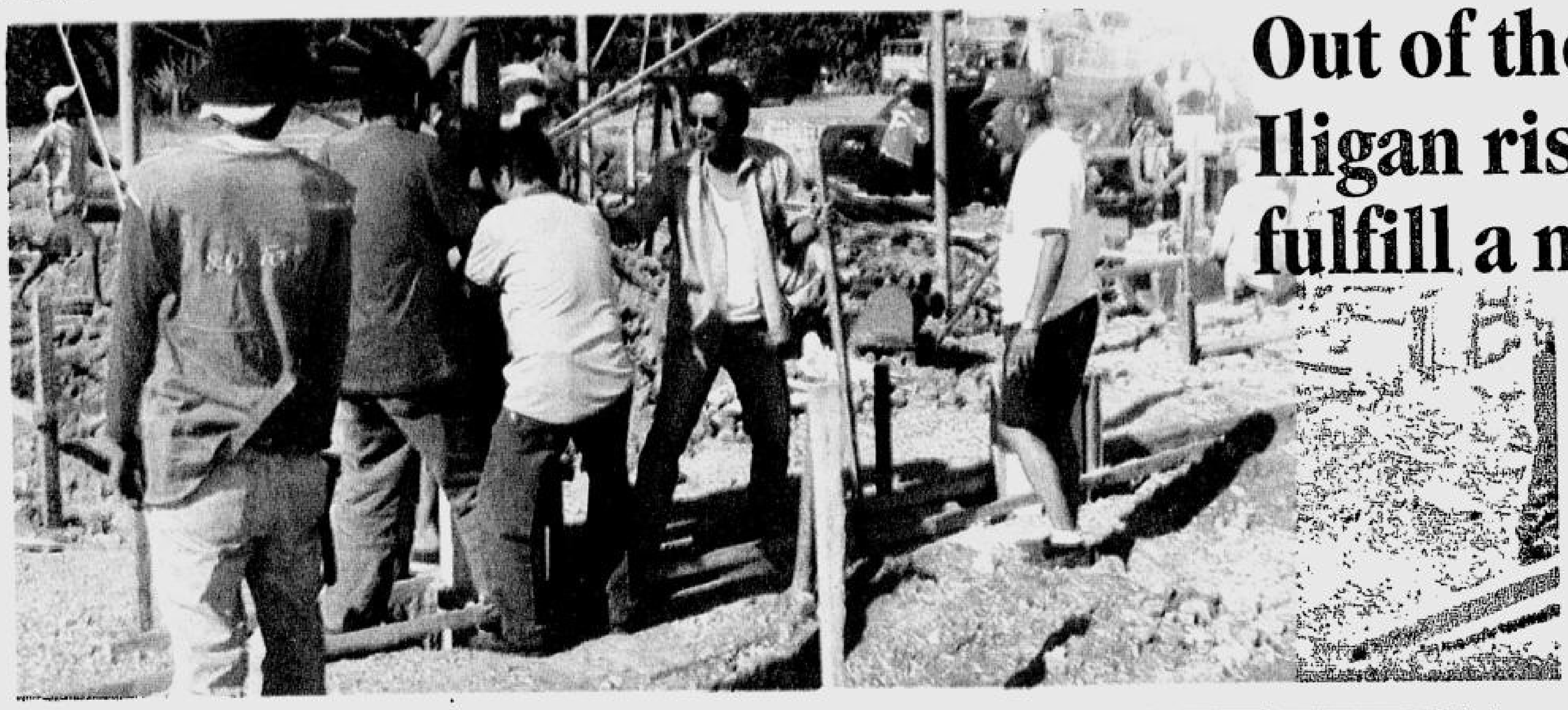
Binay also ordered the re-activation of taxi stands in the CBD to make shopping and commuting easier for the public.

He explained: DoPS personnel, in coordination with the Ayala Commercial Center Association and Makati Police Traffic Enforcement Unit (MTEU), will man the stands.

Cabbies picking up fares away from the designated points will be arrested. At the queue, a DoPS enforcer will list down the driver's name, the cab's plate number and the operator's contact number.

Passengers will be given slips of paper with the telephone numbers of DoPS, Ayala Center and the MTEU, so they can call the authorities if any driver misbehaves.

Out of the ashes, Iligan rises to fulfill a mission



'SWEAT' equity in action: Fire victims of Purok Santelmo in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, put in their share of work constructing each other's homes with the help of volunteers using donated materials plus a unified support from NGOs, local and national governments and the private sector.

GAWAD POOK

From page A1

some P30 million for the construction of 1,000 low-cost houses nationwide, 50 of which was earmarked for Iligan City, to be distributed in its five most depressed areas.

Quijano partnered with the Couples for Christ in June last year, and mobilized the city's manpower and resources to participate in the "national build" program, which was duplicated in the Missionville project, but at a grander scale.

Drawing inspiration from Gawad Kalinga, Quijano held a series of mutli-sectoral meetings to explain the noble cause of the Missionville project, and pledges were immediately made to benefit some 320 families.

Donations

The Iligan City government contributed P11.5 million and another P1 million from government donations, the private sector responded with P10 million, P1.5 million was raised from the calamity fund, former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Senator Francis Pangilinan contributed P1 million each, a foreign donor gave P1 million while NGOs and individual donors put in another P500,000.

Sweat equity

Other donors provided construction and building materials while the beneficiaries provided "sweat" equity or labor for the construction of the housing units. An inventory of commitment of support was also done.

Labor volunteers were grouped and given assignments, donated materials were placed in one area and the monetary donations were properly accounted for by a volunteer group of CPAs.

The transparency in the disbursement of the funds helped draw support from all sectors, including those from other political parties.

First beneficiaries

With such unified support for the Missionville project handled by the city government and the Couple's for Christ, the first beneficiaries moved into their own P40,000 low-cost housing unit in the 2.6 hectare relocation site in just two months.

This was made possible by the concerted efforts of national and local government agencies. The City department donated housing units, the City Waterworks supplied the water lines, the City Engineer's Officer assisted in the building permits and in the power/light installations while the city's association of contractors provided the site development equipment and materials.

New furnishings

The finished units also came with brand new beds, chairs, curtains and kitchen utensils provided by donors, primarily women's groups.

The donors did not stop at just providing houses. What they envisioned was a new community that is a far cry from what the residents left behind at Purok Santelmo.

From a community that was dependent on communal faucets, the residents now had water connections with sufficient water supply. There was electricity and roads were wide and well laid-out.

Gardens of blooms

Where before the residents of Purok Santelmo were looked down upon, they have become the envy of their neighbors with their brightly painted homes and gardens abloom with flowers.

The local government and the other concerned groups went even further by conducting livelihood orientation seminars for the new homeowners as well as spiritual and capability building meetings.

Moral recovery

Construction of learning/educational and health centers is also underway as part of the moral recovery program for the residents.

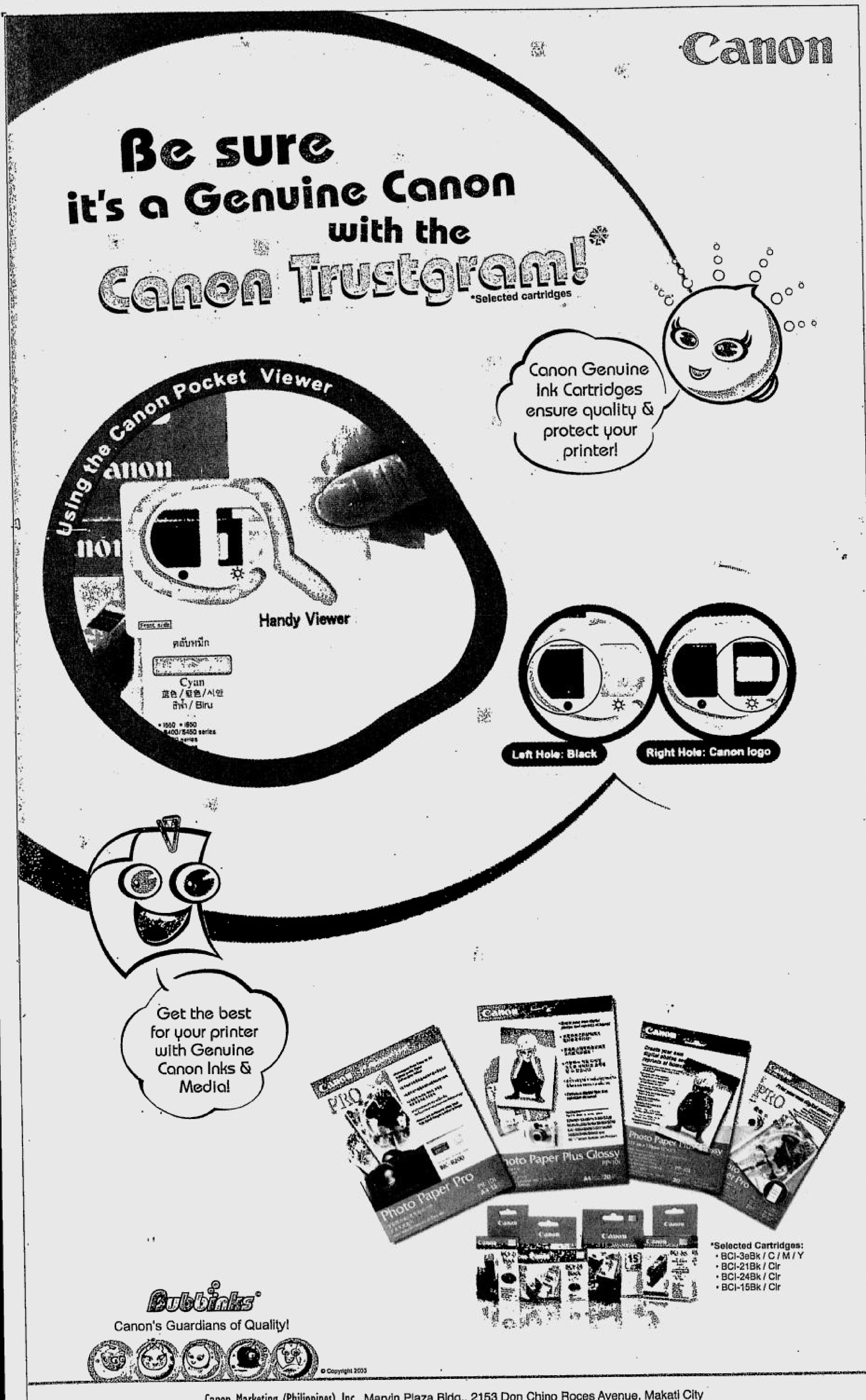
Some 103 units have already been completed and awarded to the beneficiaries and 21 more are under construction.

In addition, the beneficiaries have become regular attendees at spiritual development meetings. Also, they are now able to rechannel their savings that used to go to rental to other urgent needs such as food and education for their children.

Quijano now plans to replicate the project across all 44 barangays of Iligan City, as the Missionville project has proven to be a hit.

Collaborative

Quijano added that the collaborative effort behind the Missionville project formed and strengthened the bond between diverse groups, supporting the idea that the city, and yes, the country, can do wonders if all groups come together for a common cause.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Only kidnappers to die, Malacañang clarifies

From page A1

a means to court the support of the Chinese-Filipino community for her run for election in 2004.

The problem of rising criminality has emerged as the leading issue in the presidential polls.

Romulo said the first to be executed in January was likely to be a kidnapper sentenced between 12 and 18 months ago. He said that under the law, a death conviction would be final only after one year or 18 months after the conviction.

"We followed that," he said.

Malacañang has refused to identify those scheduled for execution, citing the Revised Penal Code stating that death convicts would be informed only on the day itself.

The President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye pointed out that this rule, including the ban on media interviews with death convicts, was blatantly violated in the case of Leo Echegaray.

A rape convict, Echegaray was executed on Feb. 5, 1999—the first Filipino to be put to death by lethal injection.

No order yet

But while the Department of Justice would prefer that convicted kidnappers die first, Calida said it had yet to receive from Malacañang an order to that effect. He said what the DOJ had was a copy of the President's order on Friday lifting the moratorium.

He also said the Bureau of Corrections (Bucor) had yet to forward a copy of the schedule of executions. What the Bucor gave the DOJ was the list of death sentences affirmed by the Supreme Court, he said.

Who's first?

"Who will be the first? That is not something we can say at the moment because we will still have to re-evaluate the cases. Eventually, the courts will decide [on the dates of execution]," Calida said.

He added that the DOJ had not recommended to Malacañang any convict who should be executed first.

Bucor chief Dionisio Santiago earlier said that the first death row convict scheduled for execution after the lifting of the moratorium was a rapist-killer.

He did not divulge the convict's name, but said the date of execution was Jan. 3 (not 30, as earlier reported).

EU concerned

The European Union has expressed concern over the President's decision to lift the moratorium on the death penalty, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said in a statement.

Ople said Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti called on him to convey the EU's long-standing and firm position against capital punishment.

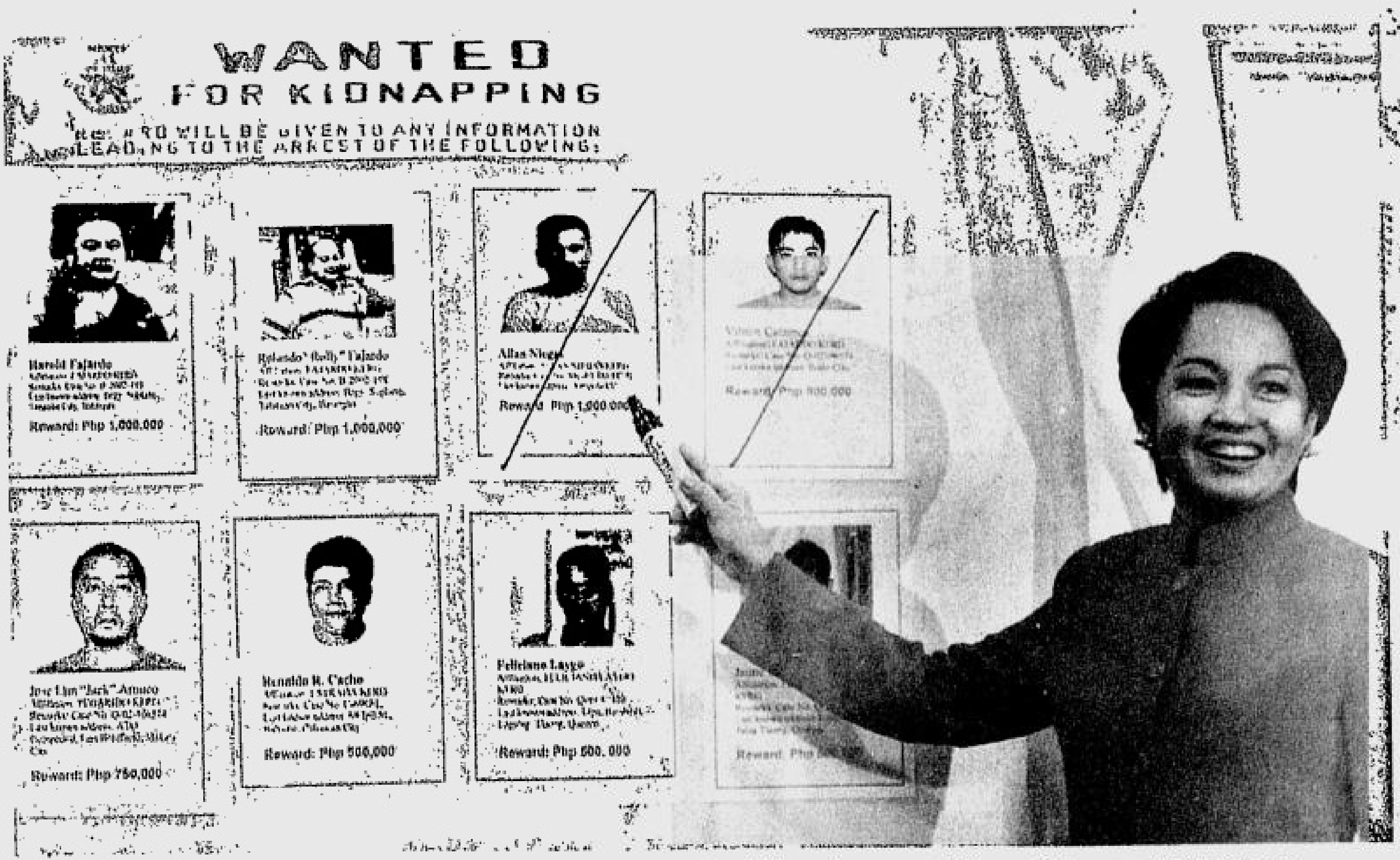
He said the "demarche," or statement, was "not unexpected."

"I gave [Colesanti] the opportunity to make his representation, during which time he also reiterated the strong support of the EU for the sincere efforts of our government to fight crime, except, of course, on the issue of the death penalty," Ople said, adding:

"It was clear from our discussion that the EU understands, although it disagrees with, our decision to lift the moratorium on the death penalty. It was also clear that the Philippines understands the traditional position of the EU on this matter. It is regrettable that we are in disagreement, but we agreed to continue to keep our lines of communication on this issue open, and to hear out each others' positions."

Ople said he and the ambassador had an extensive discussion on the matter.

"Like the President, I too am personally averse, as a matter of moral principle, to the taking of human lives in this manner," he said. "However, until there is a clear peremptory norm in the world against the death penalty, it will be up to the state to exercise the prerogatives available to it, and which it sees fit, to fully protect its people."



CROSSED OUT and marked for lethal injection by President Macapagal are kidnapping suspects Vilamar Catamco and Allan Niegas. VAL HANDUMON

Agonized for weeks

Bunye reiterated the President's appeal for "understanding" on the matter, particularly addressing the Catholic Church.

"The Church has the duty to balance its moral position against the need to protect its helpless flock from unspeakable heinous crimes," he said.

According to Bunye, the President "agonized for weeks" over her decision because she is "a devout Catholic who is personally against the death penalty on moral grounds."

He said the President had held her ground against the death penalty despite an earlier commitment to push through with it in the case of kidnappers and drug pushers.

Duty-bound

"The situation has reached a point where the criminals are challenging the core of peace and order in our society," Bunye said.

He said the President was duty-bound to serve the people by giving them an option for "just retribution" and implementing "the sentiments of the silent majority." "We pray that the desired results of her decision would somehow be achieved," he said.

Calida also rose to Ms Macapagal's defense, saying: "Our position in the DOJ is that there is a law and unless it is repealed, we should enforce it.

Rule of law

"This is part of our respect for the rule of law. This is not extrajudicial murder. This is the penalty for the crimes these convicts committed. They were given due process, tried, and the Supreme Court affirmed their sentence."

Time to get tough

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles and Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco said the President was mandated to follow the law and could not abolish the death penalty.

Nograles said Ms Macapagal tried to stall the implementation of the death penalty for almost three years, and yet criminals blatantly abused the people.

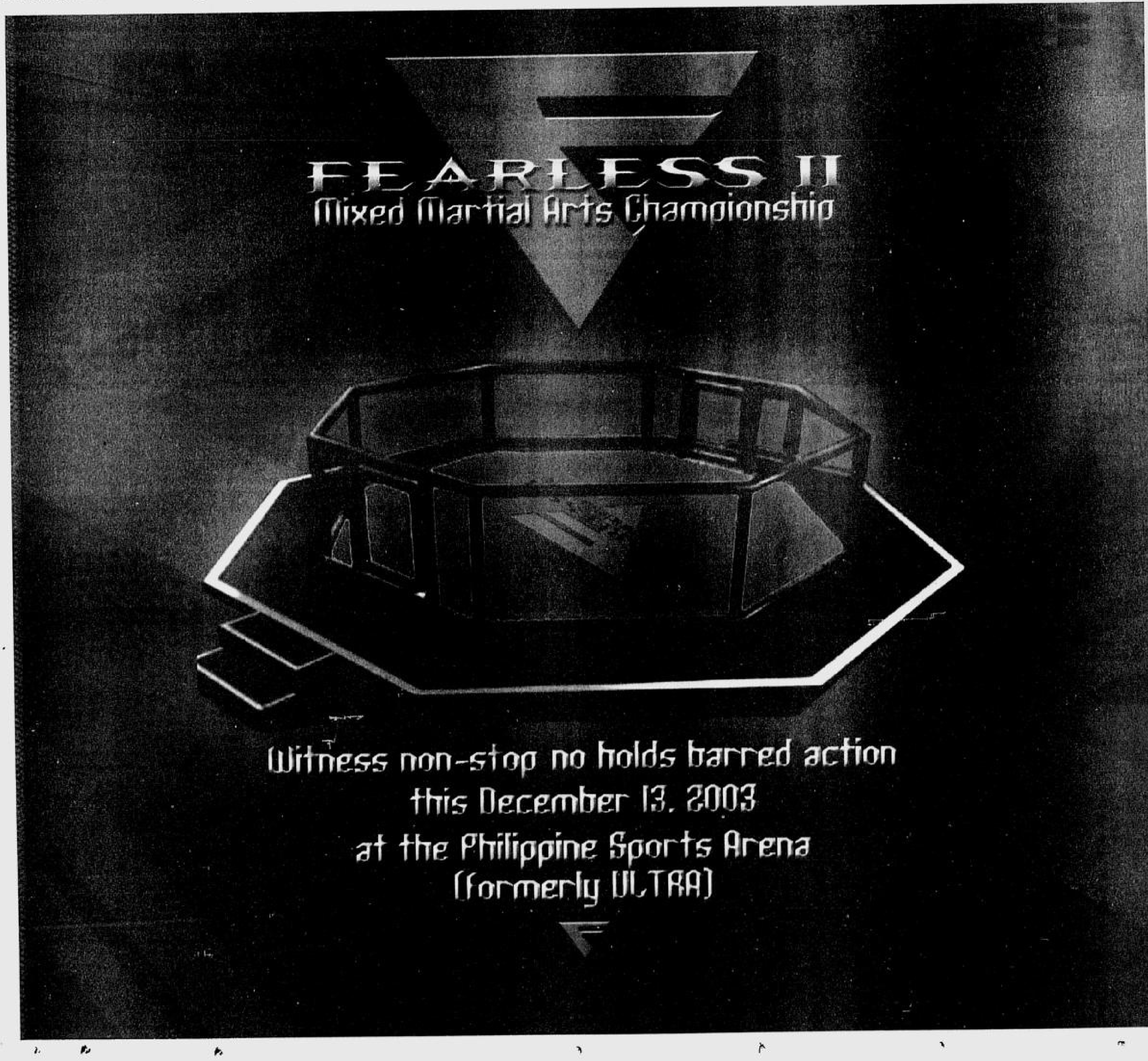
"It's time to get tough now," he said. "That's the law. The President has no choice. It is only Congress that can abolish death penalty. The lobby is in Congress, not with the President."

Lauded

Cuenco lauded Ms Macapagal for her decision.

"The law is hard, but that is the law," he said.

He noted that those opposed to the death penalty had been upholding the human rights of convicts. "But what about the human rights of the hapless victims? Human rights should be applied to all," he said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*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Gawad Galing Pook 2003

Dr. Milwida M. Guevara
Chairperson
Galing Pook Foundation

Celebrating excellence in local governance

TEN years ago, a group of local governance advocates shared the vision of sustainable development through the empowerment of local communities. At the time, the Local Government Code of 1991 granting autonomy to local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines had just been passed.

The Ford Foundation supported their vision and provided a grant to develop an awards program for local governments that demonstrate excellence in local governance. The program was managed in partnership with the Local Government Academy (LGA) tasked to replicate winning programs.

The Gawad Galing Pook was launched in October 1993 and the first LGU awardees were recognized in June 1994. Five years later, Galing Pook was organized into a Foundation to enhance its sustainability.

Now on its ninth awards year, a total of 2,339 programs have participated in the search for excellence. Of these, 175 programs have been chosen: 90 were recognized in the Top Ten Outstanding category, and 85 were finalists and considered Trailblazing Programs. Eight LGUs have been consistently cited for excellence and have been elevated to the Hall of Fame category.

What difference has the Gawad Galing Pook made?

The Galing Pook winners have become models of good practices in local governance. Their programs have been documented, published, studied and visited by countless local and national government personnel, academics, students, media practitioners, civil society leaders, and ordinary citizens from the Philippines and abroad.

Local chief executives and program managers of these programs have become sought-after resource persons in conferences and have served as mentors to other LGUs that have adopted their programs. Schools of public administration and other institutions have used the Galing Pook case studies in their academic courses and training programs.

For the LGU winners, the Gawad Galing Pook became a significant affirmation of their dedication to public service. The award generated greater public awareness of outstanding local leaders and their communities. Initially, local leaders were competing with others; later, they were competing with their past performance. The Gawad Galing Pook has challenged them to attain higher standards and cross the barrier between tradition and innovations. The constant challenge was to make their programs "Galing Pook-able". The awards served as a seal of good housekeeping on program excellence and opened many windows of opportunity in terms of accessing funds from donors and winning more awards.

The Galing Pook awardees prove that local governance works! LGUs have shown that when communities elect good and sincere leaders, when citizens are organized and empowered to work with government, when leaders govern in a participatory manner, when national government agencies share powers and resources with LGUs, and when the policy environment ensures sustainability and creative replication of these programs, a better Philippines can emerge. Galing Pook gives us hope. Outstanding local governments demonstrate that reforms are possible in the Philippines if only our leaders have political will, deliver public services with efficiency and respect for their constituents, and proclaim honesty and integrity through practice instead of words.

The Galing Pook programs are still works in progress, but they have already provided benchmarks for good governance that even the national government can learn from. Local governments have tamed fiscal deficits; sustained food production; delivered an equitable justice system; provided adequate healthcare; empowered women, children, and the poor; protected the seas and forests; and completed infrastructure projects at less than half of the costs of the national government. They have made transactions with the public client-friendly and transparent. Their air is clean, their streets are free from garbage, and the police, doctors and firemen respond to emergencies in less than fifteen minutes.

These are the communities we have been dreaming of. If only we can have more of them, they can make the Philippines the country we are dreaming of.

We raise a toast to the decade of excellence in local governance and salute the citizens and leaders behind these programs.

AWARDS FOR CONTINUING EXCELLENCE (ACE)

The Awards for Continuing Excellence (ACE), given to past winners in the Top Ten Outstanding program category, aims to encourage sustainability and enhancement of past programs even with changes in political leadership. Four ACE winners exemplify this culture of continuing excellence:

Bulacan Province

The province applies the lessons gained from past reforms and the changing needs of people's rising expectations to its reorganization program, which is now on its third wave. Past programs that won in the Gawad Galing Pook were: the *Kaunlaran sa Pagkakaisa* or the Cooperatives Development Program (1994); the Cultural Development Program (1995); the *Lakas ng Kabataan sa Bulakan,* renamed as the Provincial Youth and Development Council Foundation (1997); *Alay Paglingap* Program (1996); Reinventing Public Service (2000); Constituent-responsive Governance Program (2002); and the *Panlalawigang Komisyon ng Kababaihan ng Bulakan* (2003).

Marikina City, Metro Manila

Marikina's system of governance is anchored on three core values: discipline, good taste and excellence. The city's award-winning programs in the Gawad Galing Pook were: Save the Marikina River (1995); *Politika sa Bangketa* (1997); Squatter-free Marikina (1998); Barangay Talyer (1998); and Quick Response (1999).

Naga City, Camarines Sur

For the past decade, Naga City has greatly harnessed people's participation and information communications technology (ICT) to enhance and redefine traditional notions of governance. Programs that won in the Gawad Galing Pook were: *Naga Kaantabay sa Kauswagan,* Emergency Rescue Naga, and Metro Naga Development Council (all in 1994); Productivity Improvement Program (1995); Naga City Computerization Program and Naga Early Education and Development Program (both in 1996); and People Empowerment Program (2002).

Nueva Vizcaya Province

Nueva Vizcaya's governance model revolves around a vision that focuses on people participation and environmental responsibility. Two of the province's previously awarded programs were centered on environmental conservation and preservation: the Watershed Co-Management Program (1999) and Tree Resources for Enterprise Education and Legacy or TREE for Legacy. Its other excellent service delivery programs are: the Quality Service Improvement Program (2000); Reforming the Real Property Tax System Program, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Program (all in 2002); and Convergence and Complementation: A Tool for an Effective Nueva Vizcaya Criminal Justice System (2003).

TOP TEN OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS

The following programs were recognized for possessing a positive socio-economic and environmental impact, promoting people empowerment, having features of transferability and sustainability, displaying efficiency of program service delivery, and the creative use of powers provided under the Local Government Code:

1. Batangas Province	*Rehabilitation of Pansipit River*
2. Bohol Province	*Bohol Coastal Law Enforcement Council*
3. Bulacan Province	*Panlalawigang Komisyon Para sa Kababaihan ng Bulakan*
4. Cebu City, Cebu	*Support for Community Initiatives & Partnerships to Respond to Violence Against Women and Other Gender Concerns*
5. Iligan City, Lanao del Norte	*Missionville: Reliving the Bayanihan Spirit through Multi-partnership*
6. Nueva Vizcaya	Province *Convergence & Complementation: A Tool for Effective Nueva Vizcaya Criminal Justice System*
7. Negros Occidental Province	*Amlig Kabuhi*
8. Negros Oriental Province	*Inter-LGU-NGO Partnership in Health Care Delivery*
9. Quezon City	*Effective Fiscal·Management*
10. Barangay Tabok, Mandaue City, Cebu	*Barangay Waterworks System*

OTHER TRAILBLAZING PROGRAMS

Alicia, Isabela	*Child-friendly Local Governance*
Angono, Rizal	*Sa Turismo Aangat ang Angono*
Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur	*Child-friendly Movement*
Gonzaga, Cagayan	*Dap-ayan: Innovative Approach to Development*
Malalag, Davao de Sur	*SRA-MBN Plus*
Muntinlupa City	*Crusade Against Drug Abuse*
Pasay City	*PhilHealth Plus*
Sta. Barbara, Iloilo	*Ecological Solid Waste Management*

SPECIAL CITATIONS

Child Rights-responsive Local Governance	*Alicia, Isabela*
Gender-responsive Local Governance	*Cebu City, Cebu*
Good Urban Local Governance	*Marikina City, Metro Manila; and* *Naga City, Camarines Sur*

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For more information on the Gawad Galing Pook, contact: The Secretariat, Galing Pook Foundation
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Tel. Nos. (632) 6871348, 8671347; Fax (632) 6877719. Email: secretariat@galingpook.org
or log on to: www.galingpook.org. An online magazine on winning programs is also available at
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MMDA: Traffic worse off with roadwork delays

One-third of Metro Manila excavations has exceeded deadlines, says official

By Margaux Ortiz

THERE are 32 major road excavations being undertaken in Metro Manila and 11 of these projects have exceeded their expected dates of completion, according to a recent Metropolitan Manila Development Authority monitoring report.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center director, said that the delays in roadwork have caused massive traffic jams in the affected areas and that these will only get worse in the coming holidays.

Vergel de Dios said that because of the roadwork done simultaneously on critical streets in the metropolis, motorists are forced to take alternate routes that are quickly clogged up, creating an "imbalance" in vehicular flow.

He explained that the alternate routes simply do not have the capacity to accommodate the volume of vehicles passing through.

He cited the excavation work on the corner of Ortigas Avenue Ext. and C-5, which was supposed to be completed on Nov. 24. He said that the area remains closed to traffic because of the delay in roadwork.

MMDA Engineering Operations Center Director Ramon Pujol said the project delays are caused by various factors, like the sudden shortage of material supplies and bad weather conditions.

Pujol added that the delays are also caused by the work schedules, since most contractors require their workers to work on the road only at night.

Pujol said the schedules are necessary because roadwork in the daytime could severely disrupt traffic, especially during rush hours.

Pujol also said that problems with illegal settlers and squatters have added to the contractors' failure to beat the deadline.

Businessmen and transport groups have been complaining about the road projects, especially the "long-overdue" roadwork along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City.

They claim that their businesses have gone from bad to worse because of the delay in roadwork.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has recently declared a moratorium on road diggings in Metro Manila, from December to early January, stressing that additional excavations would only worsen traffic during the busy Christmas season.

According to the MMDA report on ongoing major road utility excavations and infrastructure projects with approved excavation permits, the projects that have yet to be completed are the construction of water gates along Rizal Avenue in Sampaloc, Manila, which was supposed to be completed in 30 days, or by Nov. 23; water pipe laying along Onyx in San Andres, Manila, 60 days, Sept. 26; water pipe laying along A. Bautista Street, Punta,, Sta. Ana, Manila, 90 days, Nov. 2; water pipe laying along J.P. Rizal Ave., Marikina City, 60 days, Dec. 2; construction of the LRT II along C.M. Recto Ave., Legarda, Magsaysay, 3 years, Aug. 31, 2003;

road concreting and drainage upgrading along Chino Roces Ave., Makati, 450 days, Oct. 22; steel and concrete pole installation along Gov. Forbes, Tayuman, Manila, 120 days, April 15, 2003; construction of the toll plaza in Balintawak, Quezon City, 730 days, Nov. 30, 2003;

underground conduit for fiber optic installation along Edsa in Mandaluyong, 75 days, Nov, 24; footbridge construction at Commonwealth Avenue corner Litex Road, Quezon City, 60 days, Nov. 10; and the improvement of the drainage system along Quirino Ave., Barangay Tambo, Parañaque, 60 days, Nov. 18.

HS freshman killed in QC campus stabbing

By Tina Santos

A FIRST year high school student on Friday was stabbed to death by members of a rival fraternity inside their campus in Quezon City.

Rogelio Garcila, 15, a student of the San Francisco High School, died while undergoing treatment at the Quezon City General Hospital.

Police are now looking for Ernesto Gripon, 19, and a certain Jay, both third year high school students at the same school.

Central Police District investigators showed that the incident happened at 6:10 p.m. inside the school located on Misamis Street, Barangay Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay.

Police said the victim, along with his classmates, were playing with their yoyos when the suspects arrived and, without a word, stabbed Garcila.

Witnesses told police that Garcila figured in a brawl with Gripon a few weeks ago.

Stainless steel workhorses rule in Navotas

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

NOONTIME on the streets of Navotas, and the shine of stainless steel tricycles can temporarily blind the eyes of pedestrians.

The urban carriages, present on most side streets in Metro Manila, dominate the town's narrow alleys. The glimmer of their oversized steel structures is a constant reminder of the residents' struggle with the never ending flood problem of the town.

In local parlance, these stainless steel sidecars are called "Mercedes," after the luxury German car. Their dowdy counterparts made only of galvanized iron sheets are called "Calesa," after the horse-drawn carriage of post-war Philippines.

Waterborne carriages

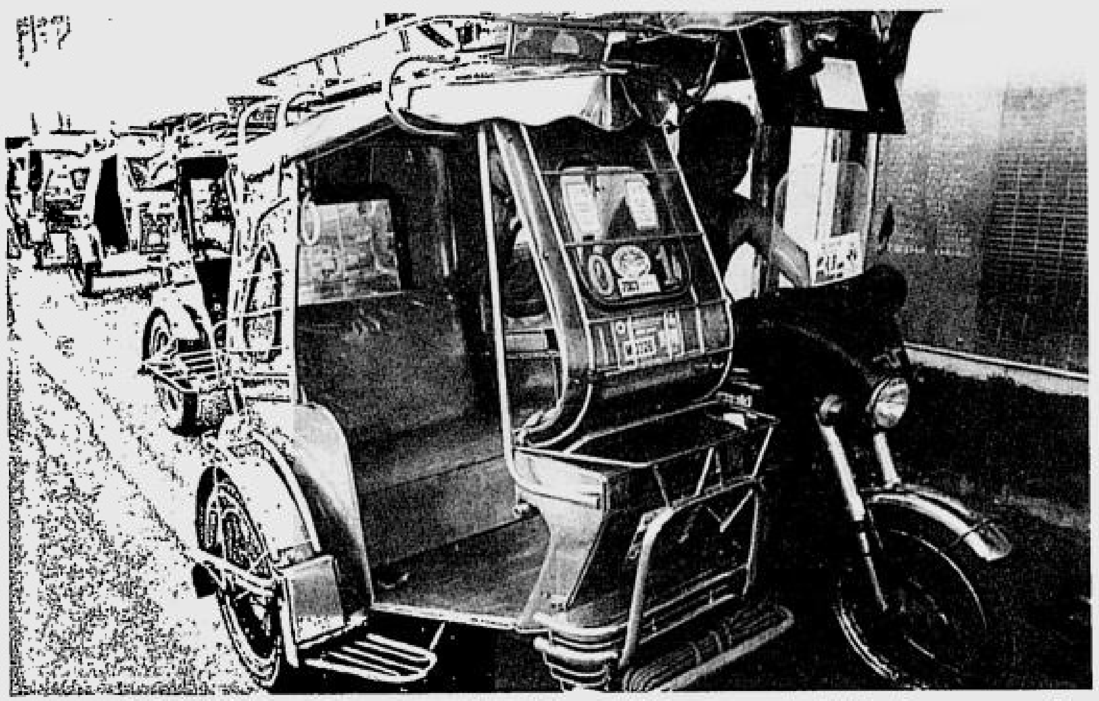
Even if stainless steel sidecars cost between P40,000 to P80,000 per model, their owners are happy to pay the price.

Rain or shine and during high tide, stainless steel sidecars reign supreme in this town, surrounded by the sea.

Navotas' streets and alleys, often submerged in sea water, can only be navigated by these stainless steel tricycles that resist rust caused by the salt in the sea.

Sidecars made of galvanized iron sheets are not as rust-resistant as stainless steel tricycles.

"Stainless types last because they are not susceptible to rust... they are durable," tricycle driver Ramon Ledesma, 42, said in Filipino. "They are okay by me, even if they're expensive."



A NAVOTAS tricycle driver gets to show off his shiny new sidecar, a must in this flood-prone area of Metro Manila. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Practical design

Bumpers and pipes are also made of stainless steel. Most sidecars have carriages on their roof, and have more spacious passenger compartments—a practical design.

Navotas is also a fish port, and most of the residents sell the catch from the sea not only in the local market but also in different parts of the metropolis. What better way to carry pails and boxes of fish on ice than on a stainless steel sidecar.

Tricycle driver Jerry Sta. Ana, 27, said his stainless sidecar could carry at least 15 big boxes of fish on ice. Ordinary tricycles will find it hard to carry even five boxes of fish on ice.

Stainless steel sidecars easily outnumber ordinary tricycles. Even the pedicabs—the ones that run on bicycles instead of motorcycles—are also made of stainless steel.

The practice of using stainless steel to make sidecars began more than a decade ago, according to tricycle drivers and sidecar makers.

Diversifying

The son of a fish vendor, whose family owned several tricycles, started using stainless steel after he noticed that their sidecars rusted easily. He became the first maker of stainless sidecars.

Other shops specializing in stainless steel sidecars soon mushroomed in Navotas. Now, there are at least 10 shops competing for dwindling orders for stainless steel sidecars, tricycle drivers said.

After the market has been saturated, stainless steel sidecars are now produced only upon orders from residents.

But recently, the shop owners have diversified into fabricating stainless steel doors and gates. Navotas residents are now shifting to these stainless steel entry ways.

And for as long as Navotas remains flooded, stainless steel will never never go out of style.

Suspected killer of girl, 7, charged

By Leila Salaverria

ONE OF the two arrested suspects in the rape-slay of 7-year-old Myra Fillomena in Manila has been charged with rape with homicide before the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

Suspect Ryan Zamora, a pedicab driver, was ordered detained and the charges filed against him upheld, while Bernardo Domingo was ordered released pending further investigation, according to Insp. Norberto Obrero of the Western Police District.

The two were brought before the inquest prosecutor on Friday night.

Zamora earlier surrendered to WPD officers while Domingo was arrested in follow up operations after Zamora tagged him as the killer.

The two have accused each other of killing Fillomena.

Fillomena was found dead and stuffed inside a sack in a vacant lot in Malate, Manila. She was naked from the waste down, and a coil of wire and a piece of cloth were tied around her neck and over her mouth. Obrero said she was raped before she was killed.

Obrero said all the evidence pointed to Zamora as the killer.

Quoting witnesses, the investigator said Zamora was reportedly the last person to see the girl when he asked her to buy cigarettes.

Police have also recovered a coil of electrical wire similar to the one used to strangle Fillomena inside Zamora's house.

METROBRIEFS

Killed by butcher

ERNESTO Lanzona Jr., 17, on Friday met a tragic death in the hands of a butcher who was looking for a fight. The suspect, identified only as Jomar, had an argument with his wife and was looking for someone to beat up, police said. Witnesses told police that when they saw Jomar, who works in a slaughterhouse, near the corner of El Cano Street and C.M. Recto Ave. in Manila at around 4:30 a.m., they noticed blood dripping from the knife in Jomar's hand. After they walked a few meters, they stumbled on the body of the victim. *Leila Salaverria*

Car plates screened

"DO NOT take your license plates for granted." The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, which was recently tapped to assist the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, last week issued strict regulations on the use of license plates, saying it would greatly help in deterring crimes in the metropolis. MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said vehicles with tampered or no license plates would immediately be impounded and the driver subjected to investigation. He also said he would ask the Land Transportation Office to stop the issuance of commemorative plates for security reasons. *Margaux Ortiz*

Fake healer falls

POLICE yesterday arrested Violeta Clete, 42, for defrauding scores of people by claiming to be a faith healer in Caloocan City. Clete, of Sta. Cruz Pangasinan, made a fortune preying on poor people seeking instant cures to their illnesses, police said. Barangay security men arrested Clete along Malolos Ave. in Bagong Barrio. *Tina Santos*

Mall chase

PANIC gripped mall-goers on Friday when policemen chased two suspected drug offenders in a Quezon City establishment. According to Insp. Roldente Sarmiento of the Central Police District, Marikina lawmen chased Abdul Rafhman and Muktar Latip, both of Mindanao, inside the Ever Gotesco mall on Commonwealth Ave. at around 3 p.m. Sarmiento said shots were fired during the chase, scaring shoppers at the mall. The suspects were subdued after the brief chase. *Tina Santos*

Avenida pedestrian project nearing completion

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza hands over a symbolic key to the city to Christine Lagarde, an executive of the Baker & McKenzie law firm. With Lagarde are Pearl Liu (right) and Natividad Kwan (left), both senior partners of Quisumbing Torres law office.

By Tarra Quismundo

DESPITE the question on its legality, the Rizal Avenue pedestrianization project is about to be completed, and its inauguration in the middle of the month will go on as scheduled.

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. said that the pedestrianized portion of Rizal Avenue—a 500-meter stretch from the corner of Claro M. Recto Ave. to Carriedo Street—will be inaugurated on Dec. 15.

Atienza said there are no more problems, no questions, and "no sweat" in the closure of a portion of the avenue.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has questioned the legality of the closure of Rizal Avenue, a national road, which it claimed the city government has no jurisdiction over.

DPWH officials have sought an opinion from the justice department to finally settle the closure of the national road.

In a letter addressed to Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong dated Nov. 20, the DPWH said that the city might have "misinterpreted or misread" the Local Government Code.

The letter, signed by DPWH Sec. Florante Soriquez, said that city officials might have mistaken article 43 of the local government code as a provision that allows for the closure of the said portion from vehicles.

The said provision gives power to the local government to pass an ordinance that would "permanently or temporarily close or open any road, alley, park or square within its jurisdiction."

But this excludes national roads, which is what Rizal Avenue is, according to Soriquez.

The pedestrianization project, based on its design, will also be off limits to vehicles—permanently.

Atienza had said that that is the "essence of pedestrianization."

City Engineer Armand Andres said that jeepneys will no longer be allowed to pass through the pedestrianized portion.

He said that only delivery vans and trucks will be allowed to pass through on a limited schedule.

The City Council, through a resolution, authorized the temporary closure of the portion of the avenue as construction goes on, and until Atienza seeks its reopening.

When questions on the legality of the closure arose, city officials reiterated that the avenue is not closed to the public, as pedestrians are free to stroll along the portion under construction.

But the DPWH views the project as a possible breach of local government code provisions, and an act that is punishable under a presidential decree.

The closure has diverted traffic to other streets around the area.

Atienza said that the project seeks to spur economic growth in the area, which he said has become "blighted" after the construction of the Light Rail Transit along the avenue.

Councilor wants to outlaw street carolers

A QUEZON City councilor wants to enact a law that would prohibit caroling on the streets during the holidays.

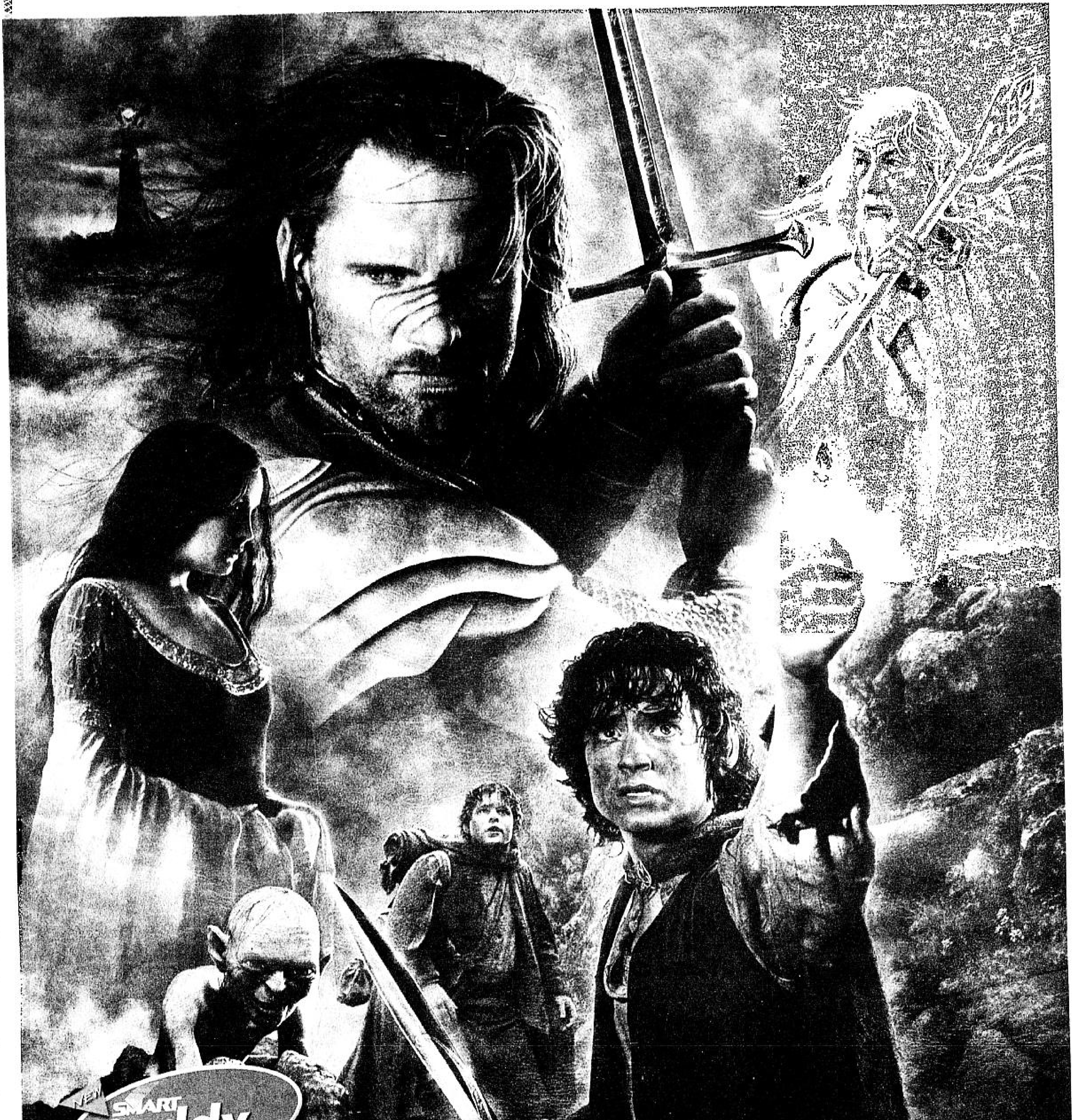
In his proposal, 3rd district councilor Dante de Guzman said that the move is aimed to protect the public, especially children, from getting hurt or figuring in road accidents.

De Guzman cited Article 85 of Presidential Decree 603, or the Child and Youth Welfare Code, which mandates government to ensure that children live in a society that offers and guarantees safety, health, good moral environment and facilitates wholesome growth and development.

Violators of the ordinance would be penalized by a fine of P500. If the offender is a minor, he or she would be committed to the care and custody of the social services department.

De Guzman said it has been a practice and tradition of many Filipinos to conduct caroling activities in neighborhoods during the Christmas season. But the councilor noted that in the past years, children and adults have been caroling on busy streets.

The councilor added that these carolers sometimes cause road accidents. *Tina Santos*



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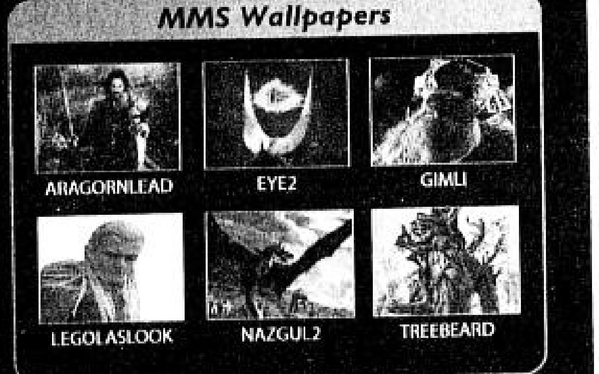

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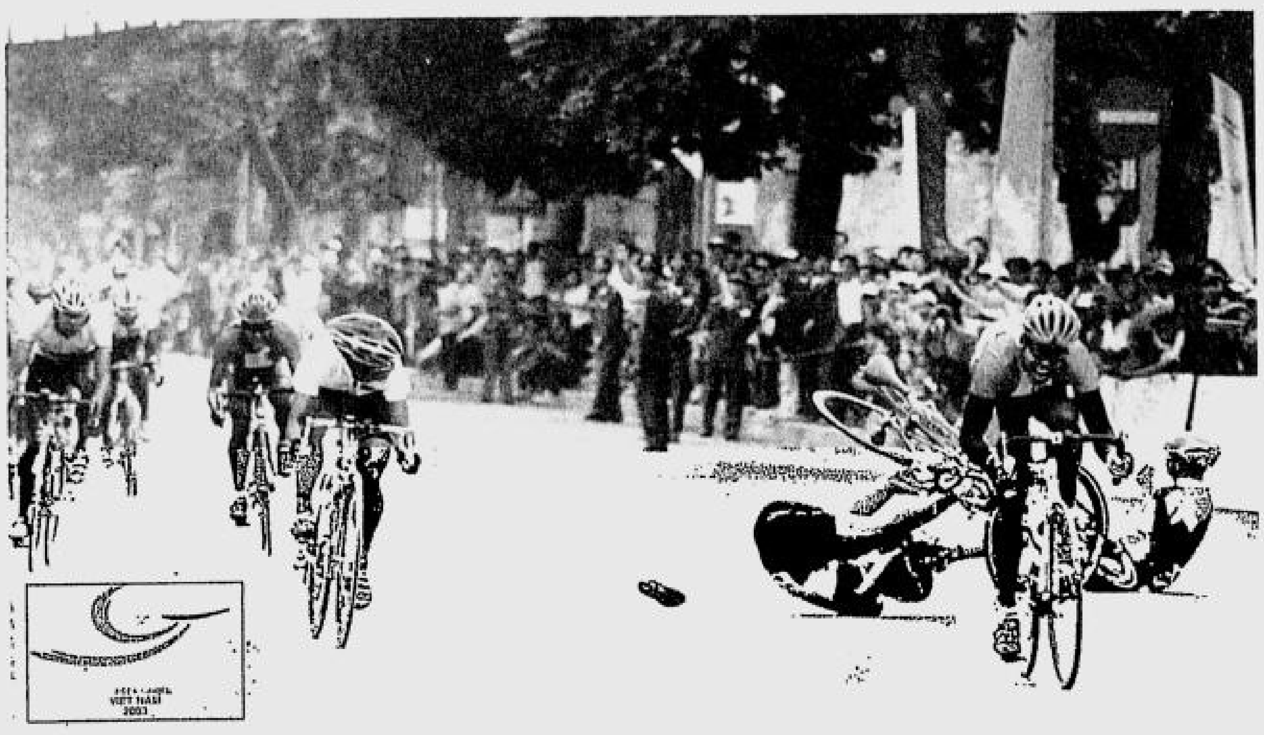
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Magic vs Mavericks; 9:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Orlando, currently the league's worst team, hopes to turn things around, when it faces Dallas.
NBA Greatest Game-Jazz vs. Rockets Game 4 1997 Western Conf. Finals; 12 noon; Solar Sports—Rockets' Forward Eddie Johnson drains the buzzer-beating three pointer to give Houston the win, tying the series at 2-2.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



FILIPINO rider Alfie Catatan (right) escapes unscathed as two cyclists next to him crash during the mad, mad sprint to the finish along Hanoi's main boulevard. Catatan salvaged the bronze medal. KARL SUMBELING

Paragua, Dawa save day for RP

By Ernesto Gonzales

HANOI—Mark Paragua ended the Philippines' day-long wait for gold and judo produced another victory late yesterday that failed to soothe the pain of three setbacks in swimming on the first full day of action in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games.

The 19-year-old Paragua captured the rapid chess title at the expense of Singapore's Goh Koon Jong, 1.5-.5, in Ho Chi Minh and Helen Dawa won in the 48-kg class over Myanmar's Nwe Nwe Than with what is known in judo as a golden score yukko to raise the country's golden output to four.

But there was little joy in the Filipino camp on a day that saw host Vietnam surge out front in the race for overall supremacy with a cascade of medals on all fronts.

And all because the Filipino swimmers lost a gold by disqualification in the men's 4 x 200-meter freestyle after Miguel Molina was beaten by a touch that negated his swashbuckling rally in the freestyle and last leg

PARAGUA/ A24

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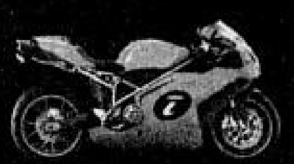

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SHOOTERS' DELIGHT: Therese Cantada (left) and Susan Aguado celebrate after barging into the finals of the 25-m sport pistol finals. They eventually wound up tied for seventh. EDWIN BACASMAS

Buenavista, tracksters open bid

By Ernesto Gonzales

HANOI—Eduardo Buenavista, spark plug of the 9-gold athletics campaign two years ago, opens his bid for three gold medals when the centerpiece event of the 22nd Southeast Asian Games starts today at the National Main Stadium.

A double gold medalist in the 2001 SEAG in Malaysia, Buenavista is a hands-down choice to rule the 10,000 meters—an event he has added to his regular 3,000m-5,000m schedule only last year in the Busan Asian Games, where he broke the national record by over a minute.

The 5-foot Buenavista, whose stature in the RP delegation was underscored with his role as flag bearer during Friday night's opening ceremony, gets going at 4 p.m. (5 p.m. Manila time) along with rookie Julius Sermona.

Ernie Candelario opens defense of his men's 400-m title, with Jimar Aing serving as his backup, in the morning heats while Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito, favored to rule the women's long jump, competes in the finals of the women's 100m, hoping to pull off an upset with the absence of 2001 winner Supawadee Khaw Peng of Indonesia.

Ralph Waldy Soguilon and Arnold Villarube make their SEAG debut in the heats of the men's 100m while Narcisa Atienza goes through the first four of the seven-event heptathlon.

The 25-year-old Buenavista, who topped the 3,000 steeplechase and the 5,000m in Malaysia, will run the 3,000m Monday along with Rene Herrera, a fighting fourth in the same event in the Asian championship held in Manila last September.

"It's a good schedule for Buenavista," said RP head coach Isidro del Prado, once the SEAG's best in the 400m and 800m.

While athletics president Go Teng Kok expects his wards to win 10-12 gold medals, the coaching staff think only six golds are in the bag—three from Buenavista, one from Lerma in the women's long jump, the marathon courtesy of Roy Vence and either the men's 400 of Candelario and the men's 800 of John Lozada.

But coach Jojo Posadas, husband of the eminent Elma Muros, who finally retired after winning the heptathlon in Malaysia, said there are strong gold possibilities in the 4x400 relay squad that will be headed by Candelario, Fidel Gallenero in the decathlon, Lozada in the men's 1,500m, Lorelie Amahit in women's hammer throw and Geraldyn Amandoron in women's javelin.

"If our athletes perform to expectations then even 12 golds is possible," Posadas said.

SEA GAMES

Paragua, Dawa bag golds

From page A23

of the 400 individual medley.

Earlier, Marie Liza Danila, who looked every inch a winner in the morning heats, could only come up with the silver in the women's 200 backstroke finals.

All told, the Filipinos wound up with six silver medals for the day and fell from a tie for second to sixth place overall with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 4-6-14.

The Vietnamese, who had only a gold to show Friday, suddenly came up with 23 victories behind a well-balanced show of strength and stormed away with a 23-9-6 medal collection. Malaysia found itself a far second with 7-8-5 followed by Singapore at 7-6-8, Indonesia at 5-4-6 and Thailand at 4-13-15.

Swim coach Guy Concepcion had earlier promised after the morning preliminaries that the national anthem would be played several times at the National Water Sports Place. The promise proved empty and heart-rending as well.

The freestyle relay swimmers were disqualified and the gold given to Malaysia as the judges ruled that Miguel Mendoza jumped too soon in the second leg. The other members of the team were Molina, Carlo Piccio and Mark Kalaw.

Molina earlier missed the gold by 0.6 of a second despite a gallant rally. Thailand's Ratapong Sirisanont won the gold as he clocked 4:23.20 to Molina's 4:23.26. Both times broke the SEAG record of 4:25.16.

Paragua patiently worked out a win despite a drawish ending in the first of a two-game playoff with Goh then clinched the gold with a draw with white in the second match.

Danila submitted the fastest time of 2:23.78 in the heats and improved that to 2:21.48 in the finals, but Thai Chonlathorn Vorathamrong came up with a 2:19.11 clocking in the finals which was a lot faster than her qualifying time (2:26.75).

Rowing settled for two silvers as Alvin Amposta and Nestor Cordova (lightweight coxless pairs) and Jose Rodriguez (lightweight single sculls) found the rivals they whipped in the eliminations simply too strong in the finals at the Ho Tay Boat Club in Hanoi's West Lake.

Amposta and Cordova, who won a bronze in the Asian Games last year and the fastest in the elims, went down to Indons Iswandi and Agus Budy Aji in their duel for the gold, while Rodriguez lost to Vietnam's Vu Dong Tuan.

Another silver came from Roman Cortuna Jr. in the 65-kg category in bodybuilding in Ho Chi Minh and Aristotle Lucero in the 60-kg division in judo.

The Filipino rowers are still in the finals of four other events Sunday with officials pinning their hopes for a gold on the first-time partnership of Emilou Babanto and Marcon Fornea in the women's lightweight pair.

The other finalists are Olympian Benjie Tolentino in the men's singles sculls, Amposta and Cordova in the lightweight double sculls and Cordova, Mark Anthony Galvez, Rowell Tolentino and Charimel Alastre in the lightweight fours.

Harry Tañamor became the fourth semifinalist in boxing as he won by RSC over Zamzai Azizi Bin Mohammad of Malaysia.

Cycling crashed the medal list with a bronze through Alfie Catatan in the men's 51-km criterium, but the female riders struggled, with Mita del Rosario finishing eighth and Katherine Kaya Lopez finishing 11th over teammate Lakambini Alto in the women's 30.6-km criterium.

Also coming up with a bronze was the male kumite team that beat Indonesia in the playoff for third, after losing to Thailand in the semifinals, 3-0. The male karatekas opened up with a 3-0 blanking of Brunei, but their female counterparts led by Gretchen Malalad bowed to Vietnam in their debut, 2-0.

Another bronze came from the sepak takraw squad in the circle event with 4,829 and Rey Grandea, who beat the famed Efren (Bata) Reyes for third place in the 3-cushion carom.

The other bronze medalists were Beverly Mendoza in women's rapid chess, Junel Perania in the under 70 kg in men's individual kumite, Franco Teves in the 55-kg category in men's judo ,and the women's tennis team of Czarina Mae Arevalo and Patricia Santos.

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE PHILIPPINE delegation marches behind flagbearer Eduardo Buenavista during the opening rites of the 22nd SEAG in Hanoi.

RP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 7, 2003

HANOI

Karatedo (Gia Lam Gymnasium)
9 a.m.—Women's team matches (semifinals)
Kerrie Asuncion, Rachel Guerrero, Raquel Guerrero, Paula Obanana
(Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)
6:30 p.m.—Men's team matches (semifinals)
Arolas Amahit, Kenneyc Asuncion, Lloyd Escoses, Melvin Llanes, Ian Gil Piencenaves (Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)
10 a.m.—Men's individual kumite—Clifford Nena, -65 kg
11 a.m.—Men's individual kumite—Sugar Ray Melanie, -75 kg
12 noon—Men's individual kumite—Jerome Caplana, -80 kg.
Jose Mari Pabillore, +80 kg
2:30 p.m.—Men's individual kata—Ian George Jereos
Women's individual kata—Cherli Tugday
4 p.m.—Women's individual kumite—Diane Morai, -60 kg

Rowing (West Lake)
All finals
9 a.m. Men's single sculls—Benjamin Tolentino
Lightweight double sculls—Alvin Amposta/Nestor Cordova
Women's lightweight pair—Emilou Babanto/Marcon Fornea
Men's lightweight coxless fours—Nestor Cordova, Mark Anthony Galvez, Rowell Tolentino, Charimel Alastre

Gymnastics (Hanoi Sports Palace)
9 a.m.—Women's team rotation

Rowing (West Lake)
9 a.m.—Men's single skull, light men's coxless fours, lightweight pair, light men's doubles skulls (heats up to semifinals)

Cycling (Bac Ninh)
9 a.m.—Women's Time Trial, 30 km, final—Lakambini Alto, Ani Karina de Leon, Katherine Lopez
10:45 a.m.—Men's Time Trial, 40 km, finals—Victor Espiritu, Ronald Gorantes, Arnel Quirimit

Swimming (Nat'l Aquatic Sports Complex)
9 a.m.—Men's 100 freestyle, heats—Lamberi Gabiba, Miguel Molina
9:10 a.m.—Women's 100 breaststroke, heats—Jenny Guerrero
9:20 a.m.—Men's 100 breaststroke, heats—Raphael Chua, Miguel Molina
9:30 a.m.—Women's 400 freestyle, heats—Lizza Danila, Marichi Gandionco
9:45 a.m.—Men's 200 Individual Medley, heats—Miguel Molina, Juan Carlo Piccio
9:55 a.m.—Women's 4x100 freestyle relay, heats—Luica Dacanay, Lizza Danila, Marichi Gandionco, Jenny Guerrero, Heidi Gem Ong

Athletics (National Main Stadium)
9 a.m.—Narcisa Atienza, heptathlon (100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m run)
3 p.m.—John Lozada, Rene Herrera, men's 1500m run, heats
Mercedita manipol, women's 10,000m run, finals
Narcisa Atienza, women's high jump, finals
Arnold Villarube, Ralph Soguilon, men's 100m, semifinals
Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito, women's 100m, semifinals
Jimar Aing, Rodrigo Tanuan Jr., Ronnie Marfil, John Lozada, men's 4x400 relay, heats
Nhe Ann Barcena, Julie Forbes, Mary Grace Melgar, Honey Joy Ortaliz, women's 4x400 relay, heats

Pencak Silat (Police Academy Gymnasium)
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Tanding, men's elimination (Emmanuel Baesa, under 65 kg, Ned John Baltes, under 85 kg, Mark Cornela, under 75 kg, Marvel Danip, under 60 kg, Al-Jabbar Sangkula, under 50 kg, Larry Sanzal, under 90 kg, Edwin Simocon, under 70 kg, Christopher Yabut, under 55kg
Tanding, women elimination (Rodelyn Arlante, under 70 kg, Nerlyn Isanda, under 50 kg, Juvy Junead, under 65 kg, Emma Tianchon, under 55 kg

Sepak Takraw (Hai Ba Trung Competition Hall)
12 noon—RP vs Singapore (men's team event)
3 p.m.—RP vs Myanmar (women's team event)

Shooting (Nat'l Sports Training Center)
9 a.m.—Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, 25m rapid fire pistols, finals
Edwin M. Fernandez, Dennis Hernandez, Eddie Tomas, 50m free rifle prone, 60 shots, finals
2 p.m.—Eric Ang, Jethro Dionisio, Jaime Recio, trap, team and individual, finals

Volleyball (Nam Dinh/Ninh Binh Competition Halls)
4 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia (women)
6 p.m.—Philippines vs Malaysia (men)

Wrestling (Ha Tay Province Competition Hall)
Freestyle (men)
9 a.m.—Violito Agustin, 48 kg, Margarito Angana Jr., 51 kg, Jimmy Angana, 60 kg, Luis Ansag, 66 kg, Michael Baleton, 74 kg, Marciano Basas, 84 kg, Marcus Valda, 96 kg (preliminary round)

Haishang (Hai Duong Province Gymnasium)
9 a.m.—Philippines vs Singapore (women eliminations)
2 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia (men eliminations)

HO CHI MINH

Badminton (Tan Binh Indoor Stadium)
9 a.m.—Women's team matches (semifinals)
Kerrie Asuncion, Rachel Guerrero, Raquel Guerrero, Paula Obanana
(Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)
6:30 p.m.—Men's team matches (semifinals)
Arolas Amahit, Kenneyc Asuncion, Lloyd Escoses, Melvin Llanes, Ian Gil Piencenaves
(Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)

Basketball (Military Gymnasium)
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (women)
8:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (men)

Tennis (Lan Anh Club—Dist. 10)
9 a.m.—Team event, men and women (semifinals) Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results
Adelo Abadia, Johnny Arcilla, Rolando Ruel, Joseph Victorino/Czarina Mae Arevalo, Alyssa Anne Labay, Anna Patricia Santos
Individual, men and women (first round)
Johnny Arcilla, Czarina Mae Arevalo, Anna Patricia Santos

Chess (Van Don Indoor Stadium)
9 to 11:30 a.m.—Team rapid, men and women, rounds 4 and 5
4:30 to 5 p.m.—Team rapid, men and women, semifinals
(Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)
6 to 7 p.m.—Team rapid, men and women, finals
(Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)
Rogelio Antonio Jr., Jayson Gonzales, Mark Paragua, Eugenio Torre, Buenaventura Villamayor, Arianne Caoili, Kathryn Ann Cruz, Shercila Joy Lomibao, Christine Manano, Beverly Mendoza

Billiards/Snooker (Nguyen Du Sports Center)
10 a.m.—9-ball pool singles (Lee Vann Corteza, Antonio Lining), semifinals
English Billiards doubles (Efren Reyes, Reynaldo Grandea), semifinals
2 p.m.—8-ball pool singles (Bronze medal game) Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results
Partie Libre
Game 1—Emilio Villareza vs Prasong Plorak (Thailand)
7 p.m.—8-ball singles (finals) Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results
7:30 p.m.—Snooker Team
Singapore vs Philippines
Partie Libre
Game 3—Reynaldo Grandea vs Antonius Ananta Sigit Sidharta (Indonesia)

Judo (Lanh Binh Thang Competition Hall)
3 p.m.—Men's qualifying—Daniel Pedro (66 kg), Gilbert Ramirez (73 kg), John Baylon (81 kg)
Women's qualifying—Elmarie Malasan (52 kg), Rezil Rosalejos (57 kg), Estie Gay Liwanen (63 kg)
6 p.m.—Matches for bronze, gold medals (Note: RP schedule depends on earlier round results)

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MEDAL TALLY

	G	S	B	T
Vietnam	23	9	6	38
Malaysia	7	8	5	20
Singapore	7	7	8	22
Thailand	5	13	15	33
Indonesia	5	4	6	15
Philippines	4	6	14	24
Myanmar	2	6	8	16
Cambodia	0	0	1	1
Brunei	0	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0	0
East Timor	0	0	0	0

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Sports can unite Filipinos —Arroyo

HANOI—First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo yesterday expressed the hope that like the Vietnamese, "we (Filipinos) could be united through sports."

In an early morning meeting with Filipino media men, Mr. Arroyo noted the Vietnamese display of nationalistic fervor as they chanted, danced and celebrated in the streets the night they beat Indonesia in football.

"They showed tremendous delight and unity. And to think that they haven't even won a gold medal yet," said the First Gentleman. "Sports is indeed a good vehicle for us to unite."

Mr. Arroyo proudly revealed the President's message to the athletes after he reported the triumphs of the lady archers and billiards stars Warren Kiamco and Lee Vann Corteza.

"Congratulations to all and love to all of them!" the President relayed in her text message, which the First Gentleman read during the meeting. He added that the President would have loved to be with the athletes, "but she's with them in spirit, anyway."

He thanked the sponsors (like San Miguel Corp., Ayala, ICTSI and Aboitiz) for supporting the FG Foundation, which raised the P22.4 million that helped fund the preparation of some 85 Filipino athletes for the Vietnam Games.

With the athletes' good start, Mr. Arroyo said "it might not be difficult to seek more support from the sponsors, especially San Miguel (SMC) which gave P10 million."

"I'm happy that the athletes have responded well to the support we've given. I was touched when I saw the (lady) archers come from behind to bag our first gold. They embraced and cried and showed how proud they were to win for our country," he said.

Mr. Arroyo was accompanied in the meeting by Ambassador Victoriano Lecaros, PSC chair Eric Buhain, PSC commissioners Leon Montemayor and Michael Barredo, and Pagcor directors Gen. Manuel Roxas (ret.), Philip Lo and Luis Carlos.

Tiny but tough Baguio lass posts biggest victory

By Roy Luarca

HO CHI MINH—Tiny Helen Dawa pulled off the biggest victory for Team Philippines yesterday as she clinched the gold in the 45-kg division of judo competition in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here.

Dawa, barely 4-foot-10, beat Myanmar's Nwe Nwe Than, who is taller by nearly six inches, by the golden score yukko to lead the charge of the Filipino judokas at the Lanh Binh Thang Hall.

The 22-year-old Dawa, a commerce (management major) graduate of the University of Baguio, thus enshrined herself in SEAG annals as her weight category was introduced in the Games for the first time.

Aristotle Lucero added a silver while Nancy Quillotes and Franco Teves took the bronze medals in their respective divisions.

The 27-year-old Lucero, a criminology graduate of Zamboanga AE College, lost to Vietnam's Nguyen Linh Son by ippon in just 10 seconds of the men's 65-kg final.

Tentative at the start, Dawa got her composure in no time and was finally able to pin down Than.

"*Kinakabahan ako noong simula* (I was jittery at the start)," said Dawa, gold medalist in this year's International Tournament and Southeast Asia Judo Championship, both held in Vietnam.

Judo coach Geraldine Barcelon said she was elated by her wards' performance. "*Sana magtuluy-tuloy na ang suwerte bukas* (I hope our luck continues)," she said.

FILIPINA tanker Marie Lizza Danila (top) shows her disappointment after getting pipped by Thailand's Chonlathorn Vorathamrong for the gold medal in the 200m backstroke final. REUTERS

Del Rosario bares starters

By Roy Luarca

HO CHI MINH CITY—The most experienced players will start for RP-Cebuana Lhuillier as it opens its basketball title-retention campaign in the Southeast Asian Games at the Military Zone 7 Competition Hall here.

Celino Cruz will tend the backcourt with Richie Melencio while Gary David and Ranidel de Ocampo will man the wings, and Recaredo Calimag will patrol the shaded lane, according to national head coach Aric del Rosario.

"We need to jump the gun on the Thais so I'll be fielding those with the most international stints," said Del Rosario. "These guys have played against most of the Thais, so they know what to do."

The Philippines-Thailand tussle is set at 8:30 p.m. (9:30 p.m. in Manila), following the Filipino cagebelles' encounter with their Thai counterparts at 6:30 p.m.

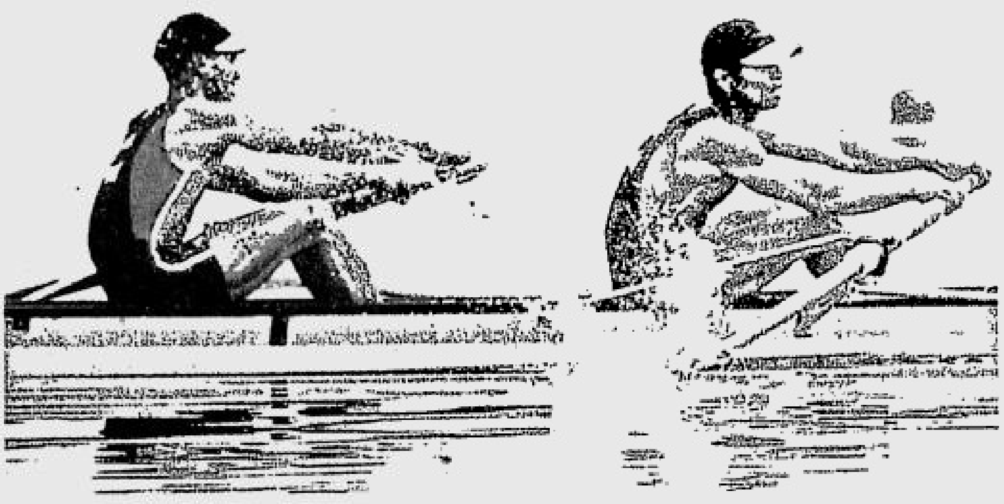
Basketball competitions started at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

Though they've beaten the Thais before for the Southeast Asia Basketball Association crown, Del Rosario told his boys not to be complacent.

"We can't afford to relax. Everybody here wants to beat us," said Del Rosario.

The Filipinos held practice yesterday afternoon in preparation for the game against the Thais and Del Rosario, with assistant coaches Boyzie Zamar and Dong Vergeire, liked what he saw.

"The boys are more intense and focused," said Zamar, who piloted the Philippines to the SEAG cage crown in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur edition.



ROWING SILVER: Alvin Amposta and Nestor Cordova come up short in the coxless pairs. EDWIN BACASMAS

Paragua rules rapid chess

By Roy Luarca

HO CHI MINH—International Master Mark Paragua reigns supreme in rapid chess.

The 19-year-old Paragua, reaping dividends of a five-month stint in European tournaments, trounced Singaporean Fide Master Jason Goh Koon-Jong, 1.5-0.5, last night to become the first ever gold medalist of the event in the Southeast Asian Games.

Paragua, who topped two rapid tournaments in France before he returned to Manila to join Team Philippines, treaded the difficult route on his way to the title.

First, he had beat countryman GM Joey Antonio in the quarterfinals Saturday night, 3-1.

Yesterday, he toppled Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai, the tournament's top seed (Elo 2590).

"Tumaas po ang kumpiyansa ko nang matalo ko ang dalawang malakas (Antonio and Dao) *na* player (I gained confidence from my two wins over favored rivals)," said Paragua.

He beat Goh in the first game with the black pieces and then coasted to a draw in the second.

Beverly Mendoza took the bronze in women's rapid singles as she bowed to Vietnamese Le Kien Thien Kim, 1.5-0.5, in the semifinals.

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Sports fans in the dark over SEAG telecast

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY is there no live television coverage?

Filipino sports fans were asking this question after the much-awaited opening ceremonies of the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam Friday night were not shown on local television.

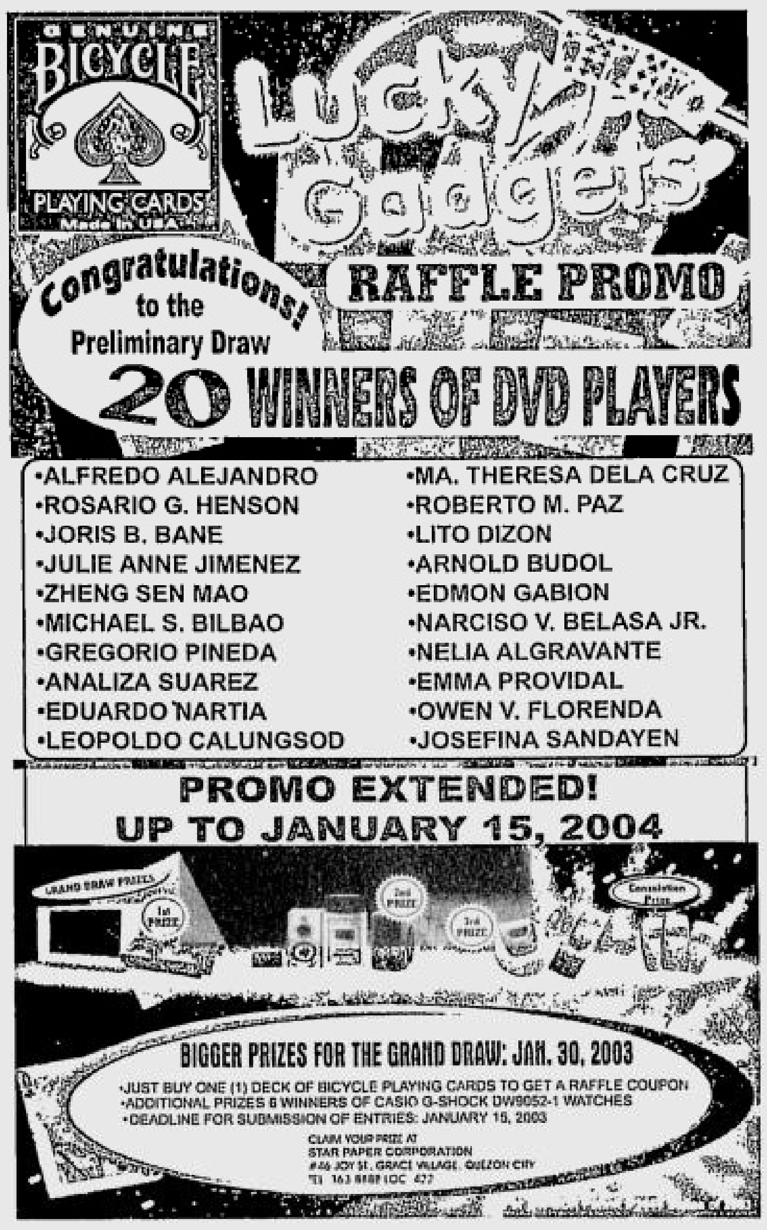
Anchors of Sports Radio (dzSR 918 AM) said they have been swamped with calls and text messages asking when the SEAG action would be telecast as they get their updates only from newspapers.

The National Broadcasting Network (NBN 4) started showing highlights of the games only yesterday afternoon, with Jemah TV handling the coverage.

Jemah TV has also reportedly been tapped by the Philippine Olympic Committee to telecast the 2005 SEAG which the country will host.

Still, sports fans could not understand why the segment showing the parade of Filipino athletes were not shown live on TV.

POC president Celso Dayrit earlier said the SEAG coverage wouldn't be as comprehensive as before due to the stiff fees required by the Vietnam organizers.



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A ham that is 100% delicious

THE ART of ham-making dates back hundred years ago in both the East and the West. In ancient China where peasants only ate pork on special occasions, giving a leg of ham was a gesture of friendship and respect. Historians say that in Medieval Europe, hams were served on banquet feasts of kings, knights and noblemen.

It is not exactly known when and how ham became an indispensable holiday delicacy for the Filipinos. But the fact remains the seasonal hams contribute a big chunk of the meat processing business during the Yuletide.

CDO, a meat processing company known for its Holiday Ham, tells us the process how hams are made delectable. And what makes the CDO Holiday Ham 100 percent delicious?

It starts with the stringent selection of pork leg meats wherein the company's quality assurance personnel evaluate the meats physically, chemically and microbiologically.

"We see to it that all meat materials come from slaughterhouses that are accredited with the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) of the Department of Agriculture," declares Amy D. Cuna, CDO vice president for manufacturing.

"After the selection of meat, trimming follows," Amy notes. It is a process wherein the unwanted parts of the meat such as the ligaments, skin and bone excess fats are being trimmed off.

The trimmed meat is flavored using brine solution using through an automatic injector machine. The brine solution is pumped and distributed evenly into the whole muscle ham to enhance color and flavor.

After the injection process, the pork leg meat is kept in a curing room with a controlled temperature. The condition allows the curing ingredients to react with meat pigments resulting in a pinkish red color meat.

When the meat is already cured, it undergoes massaging in a tumbler machine or massager. The meat is tenderized gently without rupturing the meat muscle thereby retaining its juiciness and flavor.

The massaged meat is then stuffed with a net to form the shape of the ham. The "netted" ham is "smoked" in a hot chamber with a controlled humidity and temperature for a certain period.

This process helps to prolong the shelf life of the ham. The smoked ham is cooked using a special solution that further improves the taste of ham. This process differentiates CDO Holiday Ham from the rest.

"Our hams are fully cooked in a secret solution to boost the flavor and aroma," said Amy. This process also makes our hams ready-to-serve, unlike other hams in the market that need to be cooked before serving.

The ham is cooled in a chiller before denetting, a process where deforming net is removed.

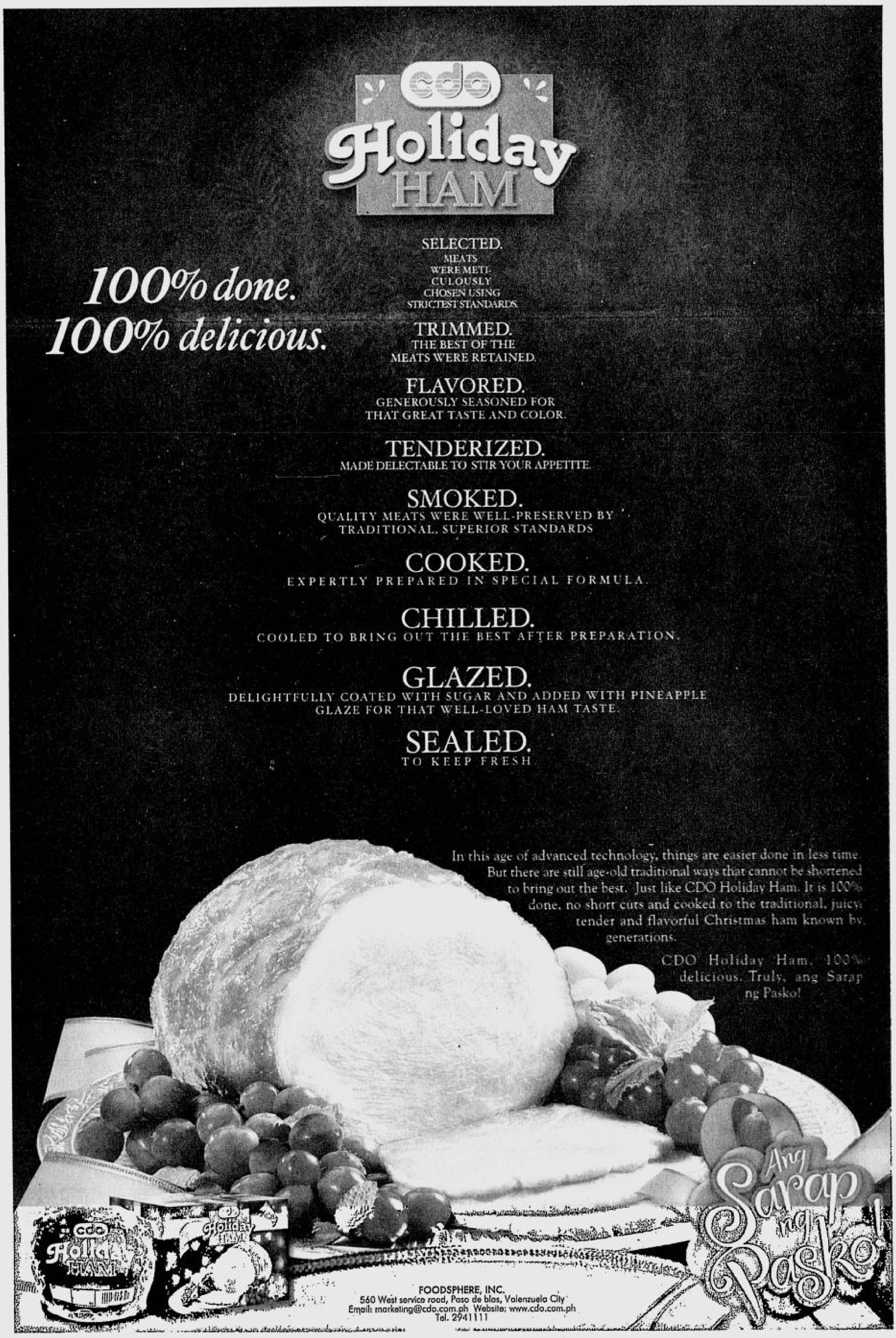
The cooked ham is glazed with sugar and subjected to high temperature for the sugar to caramelize. This adds up to the flavor and appetizing look of the ham.

After glazing, the ham is packed using a vacu-thermal pouch to seal in the freshness of the product.

The packed ham is stored in a chiller for immediate cooling down of temperature prior to distribution.

The company's shipping and delivery personnel, with the use of refrigerated vans, transport the hams to customers.

ADVT



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MADE DELECTABLE TO STIR YOUR APPETITE.

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DELIGHTFULLY COATED WITH SUGAR AND ADDED WITH PINEAPPLE GLAZE FOR THAT WELL-LOVED HAM TASTE.

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TO KEEP FRESH

In this age of advanced technology, things are easier done in less time. But there are still age-old traditional ways that cannot be shortened to bring out the best. Just like CDO Holiday Ham. It is 100% done, no short cuts and cooked to the traditional, juicy, tender and flavorful Christmas ham known by generations.

CDO Holiday Ham. 100% delicious. Truly, ang Sarap ng Pasko!

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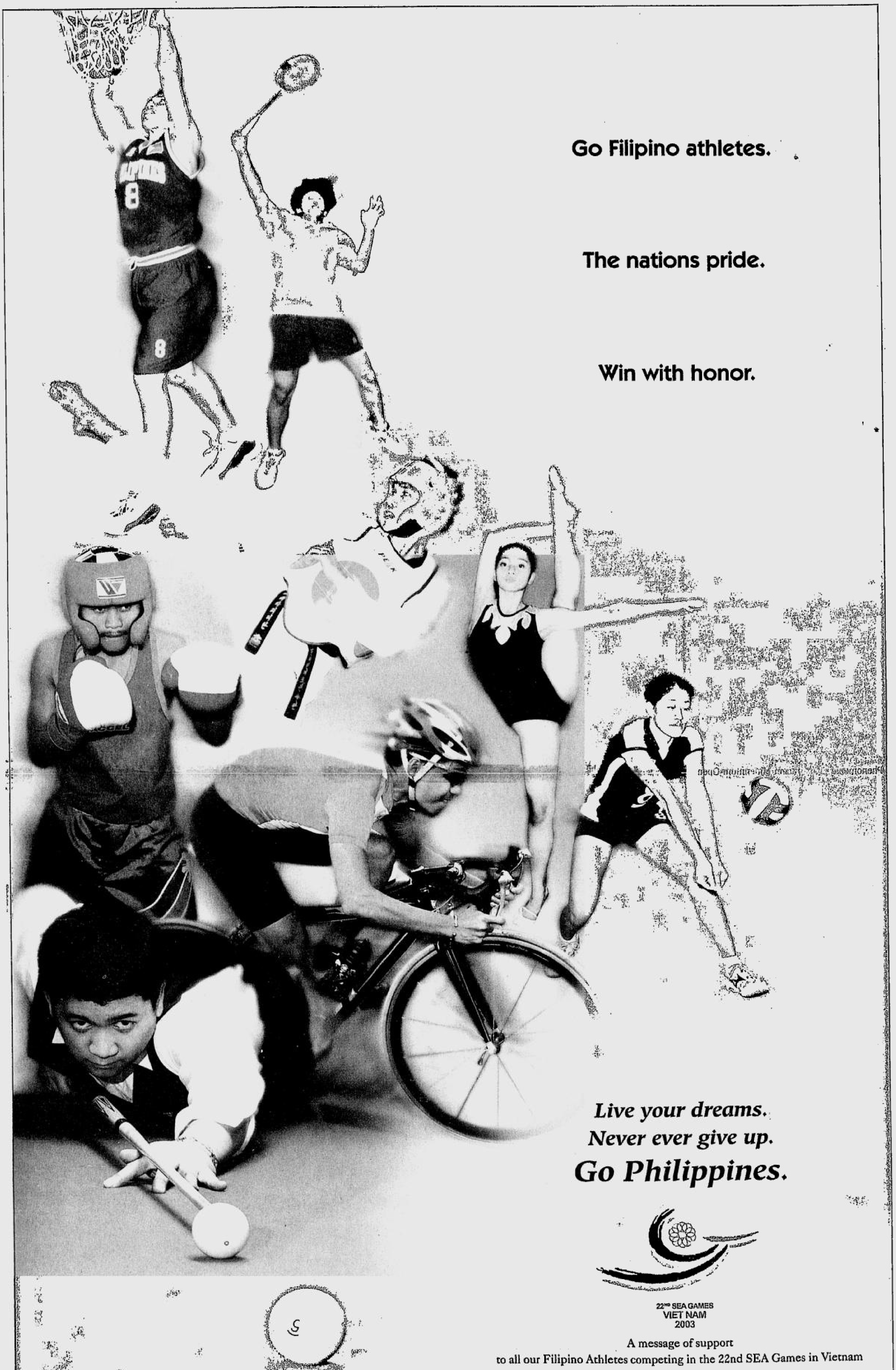
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22ND SEA GAMES
VIET NAM
2003

A message of support
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Unifying force

GUESS who's coming to Wind Blown's farewell bash today.

From what my Silip Boy gathered, practically all horse owners and people from the various sectors of the racing industry are going to the Santa Ana Park to be a part of what is perhaps the biggest single-day gathering in local racing.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

And yes, the *bayang karerista* whose lives have been touched one way or another by Wind Blown are also trooping to the Makati race venue to get a glimpse of their track hero before he is finally sent to the stud farm.

"Everyone is Wind Blown's guest this Sunday," said prominent sportsman Hermie Esguerra, owner of the charismatic galloper

With Wind Blown as the unifying force, isn't it heartwarming seeing everyone from the industry counting themselves in for the sake of unity?

"We will surely miss him (Wind Blown) *kaya dapat di mag*-absent *sa karera sa Linggo*," said my Silip Boy, whose sentiment was echoed by practically all racing fans, young and old alike.

Let's be at Santa Ana today and feel the Wind Blown magic for the last time.

***

Readers Allan James Sarte from Baguio City, Nolito Zarrula from Bacolod City and Nur Amin Ahmad from Marawi City said they're all Wind Blown fans and requested us to print the champion galloper's record. For Sarte, Zarrula, Ahmad, and all the *bayang karerista*, here's Wind Blown's record:

Wind Blown: Foaled May 1997, Bay Horse, Hazm (USA) out of Wind in My Hair (USA) by Cox's Ridge (USA);

Owned and raced by Herminio S. Esguerra and bred by Leonardo M. Javier Jr.

Race record: 49 starts with 36 wins (24 stakes wins) 5-2nd, 4-3rd, 4-unplaced

Earnings: P18,978,695.50 (All-time record high)

Credentials:

At 2, winner of one (maiden) race in 5 starts, 2nd to Dynamite Miss in San Miguel Beer Stakes and to Great Year in Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Colts and 3rd to Hazmoore in Philracom Juvenile Championships.

At 3, winner of 11 races in 16 starts, including four (4) stakes races—Philracom Horseman's Cup (3rd leg Triple Crown), PRCI Grand Futurity, Marho Breeders' Cup 3 YO Colts and PCSO Presidential Gold Cup; 2nd to Phenomenal in Philracom Millennium Open and 3rd to Streets of Gold in PCSO First Lady Silver Cup and to Rosa Morena in Philracom 3YO Championship Handicap. Champion 3-year-old Colt & Horse of the Year.

At 4, winner of 9 races in 10 starts, including eight (8) stakes races—Philracom Chairman's Cup, PCSO First Gentleman's Silver Cup, MJCI Founders' Cup, Gran Copa de Manila, TAB Phils-Philracom Open, Marho Breeders' Cup Classic, Presidential Gold Cup and Philracom Classic Open. Champion Older Horse & Horse of the Year.

At 5, winner of 11 races in 13 starts, including eight (8) stakes races—Philracom Regally Open, PCSO First Gentleman's Silver Cup, PRCI Independence Day Cup, Grand Copa de Manila, CSSF Speaker's Cup, Marho Breeders' Cup Classic, Presidential Gold Cup and Philracom Clasic Open, Champion Older Horse & Horse of the Year.

At 6, winner of 4 races in 5 starts, including four (4) stakes races—SSFI Senate President's Cup, Saddle & Clubs Stakes, Philtobo Pioneer Classic, Marho Breeders' Cup Classic; 4th in PCSO First Gentleman's Silver Cup.

Other achievements: Leading money earner of all time (P18.9 M); leading stakes winner of all time (24 stakes wins); 3-time Horse of the Year (twice by the PSA); 2-time winner of PCSO Presidential Gold Cup; 2-time winner of PCSO First Gentleman's Silver Cup; 5-time winner of Marho Breeders' Cup, including a record 3 straight Classic wins; 2-time winner of Gran Copa de Manila; 2-time winner of Philracom Classic Open; won races with seven different jockeys (FM Raquel Jr., MS Recosana, JB Cordero, PR Dilema, DH Borbe Jr., ES Aguila and JT Zarate).

Soquino, Sisos rule Osaka tilt

JANJI Soquino turned back his elder brother Arlou, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, to snatch the premier 21-under title in the 3rd leg of the Osaka Iridology Junior Tennis Circuit recently at the Southern Islands tennis courts in Cebu City.

Currently third in the national ranking, the younger Soquino also ruled the 18-under division of the tourney's first two legs.

Janji moved up to the 21-under category in search of a bigger challenge and found himself claiming the crown at the expense of Arlou.

His victory sparked a big charge by the favorites in this tournament supported by Osaka Iridology and the Cebu City Sports Commission headed by Jonathan Guardo.

The Siso siblings continued their onslaught, winning two of their three final matches, as Bernardine Siso and sister Sallydine topped the boys' and girls' 12-and-under divisions, respectively.

Bernardine bucked a slow start to whip Jayvee Canoy, 6-4, 6-0, while Sallydine posted a similar victory over Tanya Jakosalem.

SANTA ANA RACEFEST

Wind Blown honored today

WIND Blown: The king of Philippine racing RUDY ESPERAS

By Edwin Villanueva

TRACK icon Wind Blown makes his last appearance today during a lively festival of big-time races and camaraderie at the Santa Ana Park.

Practically all members of the various racing sectors and the *bayang karerista* are expected to attend the event called the "Wind Blown Racing Festival" honoring the country's most famous four-legged animal.

The prized possession of prominent sportsman Hermie Esguerra will be making his farewell gallop as he winds up an illustrious career unprecedented in Philippine racing history.

"This special day, I would like to share with all of you the pride and joy of a horse owner and a horse fanatic. This day is for my fellow horse owners, breeders and all racing fans who have supported Wind Blown. Thank you very much to all of you," said Esguerra.

A fantastic racing card has been put up by host Philippine Racing Club in coordination with the Philippine Racing Commission for the spectacle where a total pot of P2.5 million will be at stake.

Highlight race of the day is the inaugural running of the P1-million Wind Blown Classic featuring four of this year's top candidates in the coming Presidential Gold Cup.

Battling it out in the Wind Blown Classic (1,800 meters) are defending PGC champion Free Wind, in-form Material Maker and classy three-year-olds High Octane and Success Story.

The Wind Blown Classic, offering P600,000 to the winner, will be flagged off after the 6-year-old son of Hazm and Wind in My Hair makes his final gallop with star jockey Jeffril Zarate aboard.

Also included in the program are Rannie Raymundo's rendition of the song entitled "Wind Blown," announcement of the top winners of the "Likha Tula" contest, and giving away of caps and T-shirts. Wind Blown's trophies, plaques and other achievement awards will also be displayed at the A.P. Reyes Hall for all racing fans to see.

Esguerra officially announced Wind Blown's retirement after the Nestor Manalang-trained galloper bred by Sandy Javier won the 8th Marho Breeders' Cup Classic last Nov. 23 for a historic third straight year.

Wind Blown, known as "The King of Philippine Racing," retired as the richest local racehorse with a total of P18,978,695.50 in earnings over a brilliant four-year career. The three-time Horse of the Year awardee (twice by the Philippine Sportswriters Association and once by the Philtobo) tallied a remarkable 36 wins (24 stakes events) in 49 outings.

Material Maker emerged as pre-race pick in the Wind Blown Classic after topping the Japan Racing Association Cup in impressive style last Sunday.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Zaragoza Real 2. Andrei's Billard 3. Diamond Sky
Race 2—1. Empire King 2. Shock and Awe/Nothing to Declare
Race 3—1. Concorde 2. I Love This Game
Race 4—1. Love Triangle 2. The Visionary 3. Spoiler 4. Santa Fe
Race 5—1. War Hero 2. Siete de Marso/Reigns Supreme
Race 6—1. Surprise Target 2. All for Glory 3. Jade Louise 4. Crystal Show
Race 7—1. Andee's Ace 2. Schwarzenegger 3. Extreme Illusion 4. Golden Prince 5. Arrogante
Race 8—1. Free Wind 2. Material Maker
Race 9—1. Yonder Girl 2. Husay Na 3. Romario 4. Boogie Shoes/Magnanimous 5. Zero Gravity
Race 10—1. Arriba King 2. Hazmoore
Race 11—1. Bunker Buster 2. Profit Master 3. Silver Cho Cho 4. Hezabellagio 5. Words of Joy
Race 12—1. San Diego Force 2. Adam's Call 3. Burning Light
Race 13—1. Roppongi 2. Compañero 3. Sham Sham 4. Lady Victoria 5. Yours Truly 6. Ahead of Time

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Reversal of roles in Fil-Am

Mizuno-DHL, CAP-Southwoods teams swap crowns

By Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—Mizuno-DHL won the much-coveted Fil Division Championship yesterday in the 54th Fil-Am Golf Invitational, a handsome tradeoff for losing the Am Division crown it had won the last two years.

The supremely confident charges of Lovell Gopez, the skipper of Mizuno-DHL after inheriting the position this year from his father Benny, matched the firepower of CAP-Southwoods at their opponents' home course, Camp John Hay, to manifest their worth as the new heroes in the fabled event.

Bridesmaids the last two years in the premier Fil Division Championship, Mizuno-DHL finally completed the reversal of roles among divisional champions as deposed Fil-Division champion CAP-Southwoods settled for the lower-in-prestige Am Division title.

Romeo Jaraula closed out with 40 points (4-under) at Camp John Hay for Mizuno-DHL, with Erwin Vinluan tossing in 38, Dr. Tristan Tabanas and Marvin Dumandan 36 apiece. Paul Miñoza's 35 did not count.

Their 150 improved by 9 their output on Friday as Mizuno-DHL met head-on CAP-Southwoods' final-day charge yesterday that also produced 150 for 530, 16 points behind Mizuno-DHL's winning total of 546.

Scoring for CAP-Southwoods yesterday were Gene Bondoc with 40, Antonio Asistio with 39, Jerome Delariarte with 36 and Artemio Murakami with 35. Marc Lopez's 33 did not count.

Mizuno-DHL scored 128-127 at Baguio Country Club and 141-150 at Camp John Hay against CAP-Southwoods' 123-121-136-150.

"The key to our victory was the boys' consistency," said Gopez, 27. "It would have been nice had we also captured our third consecutive Am Division crown for a sweep. But it's all right. Winning the tournament's most coveted trophy is just great."

But in losing its Am Division title, Mizuno-DHL had itself to blame in the tournament presented by Smart Communications and sponsored by Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International.

After leading CAP-Southwoods the first two days at Camp John Hay, Mizuno-DHL's crew of Kit Lopez, Jimmy Feliciano, Lawrence Negrido, Greg Laguatan and Rudy Amata self-destructed in the third round at Baguio Country Club.

From their wondrous 134-132 performance at CJH for a 2-point lead over CAP-Southwoods, the quintet crashed to a mere 101 in Round 3 at BCC, yielding a 21-point deficit. Overhauling that in yesterday's final round was next to impossible.

CAP-Southwoods' Jun Jun Plana, Juami Rocha, Lyndon Barril, Hanson So and Michael Bibat combined for an imposing 124 in the third round, and then coasted along with a 117 yesterday to win its first Am Division crown after finishing second behind Mizuno-DHL the last two years.

Johnson expected to suit up for SMB

BARRING any major glitches, Kwan Johnson will suit up for San Miguel Beer when the Beermen try to move on the threshold of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference championship today at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAME TODAY ***(Araneta Coliseum)***
5:30 p.m.—Jojo Lastimosa vs Ato Agustin/Willie Miller vs Kerby Raymundo (one-on-one)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel Beer (Game 4)
Game 1—SMB d. Coca-Cola, 84-81
Game 2—Coca-Cola d. SMB, 103-79
Game 3—SMB d. Coca-Cola, 86-81

Dondon Hontiveros filled the vacuum left by Johnson and led San Miguel Beer to an 86-81 triumph over the Coca-Cola Tigers in Game 3, giving the Beermen a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven title showdown.

SMB team manager Robert Non said Johnson would be back from the injury list for the 6 p.m. tip-off after missing the Beermen's last two games due to a pulled groin muscle.

Former NBA slam dunk champion Cedric Ceballos temporarily replaced Johnson in Game 2.

Sources said that as pinch-hitter to the injured Johnson, the 34-year-old Ceballos was paid between $2,500-$3,000 for the game.

Coca-Cola import Tee McClary, meanwhile, returns to the Tigers' bench after serving a one-game suspension for elbowing Danny Ildefonso in Game 2.

Ildefonso, who retaliated with a right cross to McClary's chin, also joins the Beermen after being fined P30,000 and suspended for a game—penalties that do not sit well with the Red Bull Barako management.

Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guiao has appealed on behalf of guard Jimwell Torion, who he said was unfairly penalized with a long suspension for accidentally fracturing the nose of Talk 'N Text sentinel Jimmy Alapag during the two teams' quarterfinal series.

Guiao said Ildefonso's retaliatory action was deliberate.

"It's grossly unfair to Jimwell (Torion) and the Red Bull management. As commissioner, Noli Eala's duty is to dispense justice to all," said Guiao, referring to the P70,000 fine and eight-month suspension slapped on Torion.

Spicing up today's Game 4 is the 2003 Mighty Bond-PBA one-on-one matchups featuring four of the league's best players from two different eras.

All-time greats Jojo Lastimosa and Ato Agustin will be pitted in one exhibition match while youngsters Kerby Raymundo and Willie Miller cross paths in another.

Two of the finest players in the late eighties, Agustin and Lastimosa try to relive the form that earned them spots in the PBA's 25 Greatest Players some years back.

Agustin will be donning the colors of SMB, where he emerged from the shadows of Samboy Lim, Allan Caidic and Mon Fernandez to become the first second-round pick to win the league's MVP award in 1992.

Lastimosa, the 1988 rookie awardee and a consistent All-Star, carried the banner of Alaska—the team he skippered to nine championships in the 1990s, including a historic grand slam in 1996.

A P100,000 cash pot has been allotted for the two matches.

June Navarro

ATO Morano of Coke slips past San Miguel's Boybits Victoria (l) and Dorian Peña in Friday's Game 3. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pioneer badminton draws banner field

FOUR teams will battle for supremacy in the Pioneer Badminton Christmas tournament which reels off Dec. 13 at the Pioneer Badminton courts in Mandaluyong City.

Fancied Pacific Internet will be challenged by Team Aqua Blue and a pair of battle-grizzled squads from Pioneer Badminton in the tournament backed by Pacific Internet, Aqua Blue, Whistlestop, Wilson, Magic 89.9 and Yehey.com.

Pioneer Badminton chief Edmin Tarriela said the 170 shuttlecock artists who survived the two-week qualifying would be drafted by the four teams and categorized depending on their level of skill.

The two-day tournament culminates with a Christmas party-cum-awarding ceremony where the participants will be treated to a live acoustic performance by Mute Madness on Dec. 14 at the Whistlestop Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City.

Organizing committee head Dea Alonzo and Tarriela mapped out the year-end event which drew a multitude of badminton enthusiasts around Metro Manila. Organizers have already met their target as the number of participants breached the 150 mark.

SPORTSWATCH

PARTICIPANTS TO THE
03 PBA GOLF SIC
ACK G COUN
MANDAL NG CIT

PHILIPPINE Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala (third from left) and PBA chair Jun Cabalan (extreme left) award the Commissioner Leo Prieto Trophy to the Philippine Sportswriters Association golf team at the close of the 2003 PBA golf series recently at the Wack Wack Golf Club. Led by Ding Marcelo, Lito Tacujan, Jun Engracia, Ernie Gonzales and Musong Castillo, Team PSA beat Team PBA, 344-346.

Sizzling Rubio finish in Formula Rotax

ARCHIE Val Rubio of the Intelco Racing Team overcame the odds and drove like a veteran to clinch the Novice crown in the finals of the 2003 Formula Rotax Max Championships held recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Rubio's fruitful season was supported by AER Construction, Intelco, PR Autosport, Arrow Karts, Accel Sports Wear and Drew Price Engineering. Entering the round in third place in the class' scoreboard, Rubio swept the three remaining heats to win the title. The 17-year-old IT student from the Asia Pacific College outduelled veteran circuit driver Ricardo Loi of SFIC Racing and M&M Kart Racing's Rex Alvendia. Rubio is now poised to scale greater heights as he sets his sights on a podium windup when he competes in the final round of the Asian Zone Open Kart Championships slated this week, Dec. 11-14 at Morac International Karting Circuit in Langkawi, Malaysia.

Big meet for executive netters slated

SENIOR executives take center stage starting today when the PTMI (Philippine Tennis Management Inc.) tennis tournament reels off at the Quezon City Sports Club indoor shell courts. Eleven categories are on tap in the weeklong tournament, including two ladies events, with a total purse of P200,000 up for grabs. The other events are the men's 35, 40, 50 and 55 years old and above and doubles in the 35, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years old and above classes. The tournament, sponsored by Dunlop-Slazenger, Forten Tennis Accessories, Adidas, Sulo Hotel, Viva Mineral Water, Racks Restaurant and RFM Corp., is staged by PTMI, an organization founded recently by a group of senior tennis players, headed by PTMI president Ted Banas.

Motorsports part of Puerto feast

PUERTO Princesa celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Concepcion with two special motorsports events this weekend at the Sta. Monica track beside the city's capitol. This year's fiesta will showcase the "Pista Na, Pasko Na National Motocross Race" on Dec. 7 and the first-ever "Pista Na, Pasko Na 4x4 Offroad Challenge" in the whole of Palawan on Dec. 8. Both events were made possible by the support of the city government headed by the Mayor Edward Hagedorn and the events' major partners Red Horse Beer, Caltex Delo Sports, WG&A, Cebu Pacific, Nescafé, Coffeemate, Tanduay Rhum and BLTB Co. Speed TV show will provide the official TV coverage.

Go entry solo champ in Cavite derby

MADISON Go, an upcoming cocker-breeder from Pasay City, was the surprise solo champion in Cavite Coliseum's Cavite 7-Cock International derby last Friday. Go's entry, Master of the Ring, sizzled with seven straight victories to win the champion's purse of P1.2 million and the giant trophy donated by Sen. Ramon Revilla. Newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet (Greenwood Balbina), fresh off his victories in the UCAP and NCA Stagfighter championships, and Gov. Chavit Singson (Siete Pares) won runner-up honors with six points each. Finishing in the money with five points were Joseph Dilay (JAD I), Dennis Roldan and Mike Romulo (Tonio Sunriser), Jun Pascual (Grand Villa), Boy Royo and Pol Estrellado (SPC-BRPE), engineer Palac (Estrangero) and Shannon entry. This fund-rasing sports affair was co-hosted by Sen. Revilla, lawyer Rudy Salud, vice mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co.

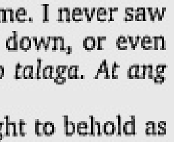
NCA opens new cock season tomorrow

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) opens the 2003-2004 cock season with the staging of the NCA 7-Cock Derby on tomorrow and Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum. NCA stalwarts Gov. Ito Ynares, Eddie Araneta and Rep. Rudy Albano announced that the NCA is now stronger than ever, boasting of 67 members. Among the NCA members are Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Gov. Ito Ynares, Pico Berin, Mario Villamor, Louie Cua, JV Magsaysay, Rudy Albano, Gerry Ramos, Rene Medina, Edgar Santos, Eddie Araneta, Benjamin Bautista, Rep. Claude Bautista, Frank Berin, Matt Bittanga, Efren Canlas, John Capinpin, William Co, Boy de Roca, Biboy Enriquez, Alex Escalona, Gerry Escalona, Pol Estrellado, Feliciano Brothers, Jet Fernando, Joel Fernando, Ric de Guzman, Boy Jiao, Edwin Jingco, Rudy Jingco, Sonny Lagon, Dicky Lim, Madlambayan Brothers, Amang Magsaysay, Tony Marfori, Pepito Ngo, Nick Patena, Mauro Prieto, Patrick Puno, Ronnie Puno, Charlie Reyes, Tos Reyes, Ruel Ricafort, Bebot and Max Roxas, Boy Royo, Joey Sarazola, Edu Manzano, Raymond Velayo and Jessie Viceo. Seventeen big derbies will spice up the exciting NCA Cocker of the Year race. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.

ACCEL, one of the leading sports brands, was appointed as the official outfitter of Team Philippines to the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. Formalizing the appointment are (from left) IOC representative Frank Elizalde, POC president Celso Dayrit, Sporteum Phils. board chairman Philip R. Go and Sporteum president Willie Ortiz. Sporteum is the exclusive distributor of ACCEL products in the country.

Tata Bernie

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

WE usually retire employees at the age of 60; other companies 65. But in other countries, they don't just send their employees to pasture land. In Japan, for example, the older the employee, the better he/she is. In short, the Japanese tradition is, performance is the final arbiter and the employee's age is but incidental. The wisdom is what counts; that can be usually had when one knows how to age with grace.

I have just discovered that the Baguio Country Club (BCC) in Baguio City observes the no-age rule. Its caddies can keep their work for as long as they want to.

And so, Federico R. Agcaoili, the BCC president, take a bow. I have just unearthed a diamond from the ranks of your caddies. His name is Bernardo V. Ayson, only 82 years old.

Born in 1921 to a migrant from Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, Tata Bernie started caddying in 1933, when he was 12 years old.

Tata Bernie is unbent. He walks minus a limp common to people his age. His skin, sun-bronzed, isn't wrinkled. The lines in his face are those of, at the most, a 60-year-old's.

"I have no secret to longevity except, maybe, just one," Tata Bernie tells me while he and his "amo," Juami Rocha, the former national player and world-class jungolfer, were climbing up the tee box of No. 7. "I have quit smoking in 1979."

That was 24 years ago; he was just 58 years old then.

Tata Bernie, who has eight children and 26 grandchildren as of last count, walks to report for work at BCC and goes home on foot, too. That's a total of six kilometers, back and forth.

"I've been doing that for the last 70 years," he says.

You add at least 10 kilometers of walking while caddying six times a week, that's 16 kilometers a day or 96 kilometers a week.

The day I was talking to him, Tata Bernie carried Juami Rocha's bag without the benefit of a pull cart.

"I'm so inspired having him as my caddy," Juami tells me. "I never thought he could go two days with me. I never saw any trace that he'd bog down, or even slow down. *Ang tibay ho talaga. At ang bait pa.*"

They were a lovely sight to behold as they trudged through steep inclines and zigzagging footpaths; Juami, who will turn 27 on Dec. 11, looked every inch Tata Bernie's grandchild.

The one thing that happily struck me is, Tata Bernie has caddied in all 54 Fil-Ams since Rogelio dela Rosa started this now-fabled event in 1950.

"The Fil-Am has become like second home to me," says Tata Bernie. "I have never thought of retiring but when that time finally comes, I'll accept it gladly. But still, God willing, I will still try to caddy when it's Fil-Am time—that is, of course, if somebody is still willing to take me."

Heard that Anthony de Leon, the no-nonsense, hard-working BCC general manager, will fete Tata Bernie shortly—if he hasn't done that yet last night to coincide with the Fil-Am awarding ceremonies. Here's a glass to you again, Anthony.

Unlike others his age, Tata Bernie says he doesn't have a special diet. He eats anything edible.

"I like pork very much," says Tata Bernie, who is trim like a flyweight boxer. "But I do eat a lot of vegetables and fish, too."

He says he must have inherited his father's genes.

"My old man died at the ripe, old age of 109," says Tata Bernie. "But maybe more than that, my real secret is this: I have never tasted any single drop of liquor."

C'mon, Tata Bernie, don't be a KJ.

"Oh, am really sorry, my boy," says he. "Not even beer."

***

FASTBREAK. Bob Sobrepeña, the architect of Camp John Hay's massive facelift, is oozing with ideas for next year's 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational in Baguio City. "I will strongly propose to hold nightly socials during the two-week Fil-Am next year because I believe we ought to really emphasize on the fun aspect of the tournament," said Bob. "With the adoption of the Fil-Am Seniors, I foresee a thousand or so participants and we must guarantee a dull-free tournament so that we must invite big-name performers to entertain them regularly at night. Also, I will propose that we give more giveaways, too, to make the event really enjoyable and memorable." I couldn't agree more.

Gabica subdues 9-ball rivals

ANTONIO "Gaga" Gabica subdued two Pampanga opponents yesterday and gained ground in the "Search for Tanduay the No. 1 Billiards Player" at the Robinsons Mall.

Gabica, the back-to-back Tokyo 9-ball champion, also emerged featured cue artist for the third week in the event sponsored by Tanduay, Robinsons Malls and Rommel's Billiards.

Gabica escaped with a 5-3 triumph against Guagua native Roland Garcia and then pulled off another 5-3 win against Marvin Liang of San Fernando.

Garcia, the 2002 Guagua 9-Ball champion, gave Gabica difficult moments, seizing a 3-2 lead in the first five racks.

But Gabica scored on Garcia's break to even the count at 3-3 and showed the stuff he's made of in the next two racks to settle the issue.

Against Liang, Gabica jumped to 2-1 and 3-2 leads.

But Liang, winner of the recently concluded 2003 San Fernando 9-Ball Championship, evened the match at 3-3, before Gabica wrapped it up by taking the last two racks.

Gabica will face two new budding billiards players next week in this event conceptualized by Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li with the support of Tanduay Distillers marketing manager Andres Co.

For inquiries, call the Corporate Billiards League secretariat at 0918-9219934 or log on to corporatebilliardsleague@yahoo.com.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MR. SUAVE
Ali 2	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
Ali 3	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS
Ali 4	OUT OF TIME
Ali 5	STAR RUNNER
Ali 6	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
Ali 7	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPENS THURSDAY DEC.11

ARANETA COLISEUM

DEC 7	PBA FINALS : GAME 4
DEC 8	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
DEC 10	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
DEC 14	PBA FINALS (If necessary)

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MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG BABAE SA BREAKWATER
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CINEMA-3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-6	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR SUAVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-1	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-2	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PSYCHO
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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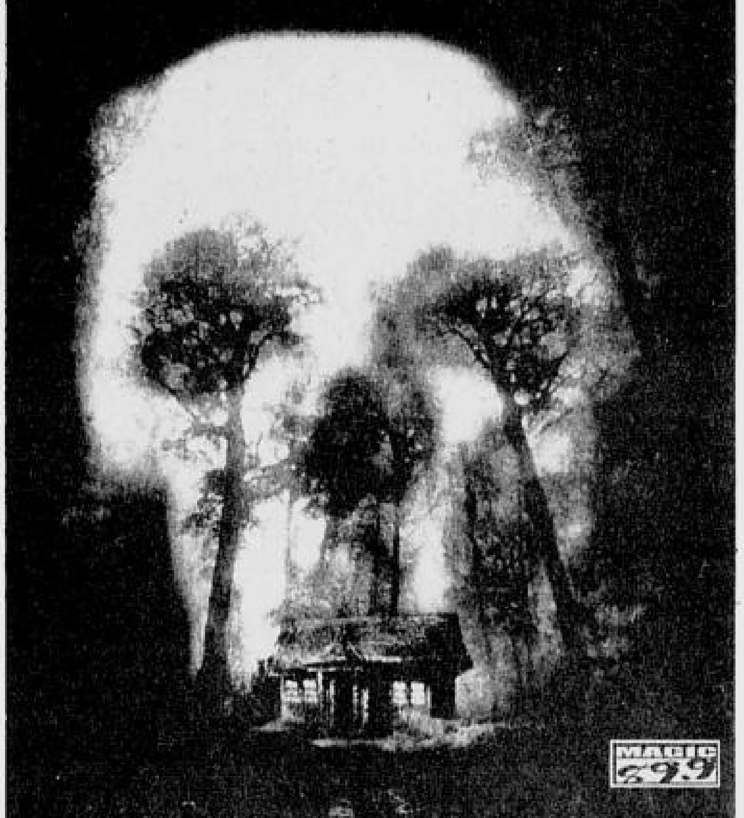
NO PLACE TO HIDE, NO PLACE TO RUN, EVIL STRIKES FROM WITHIN.



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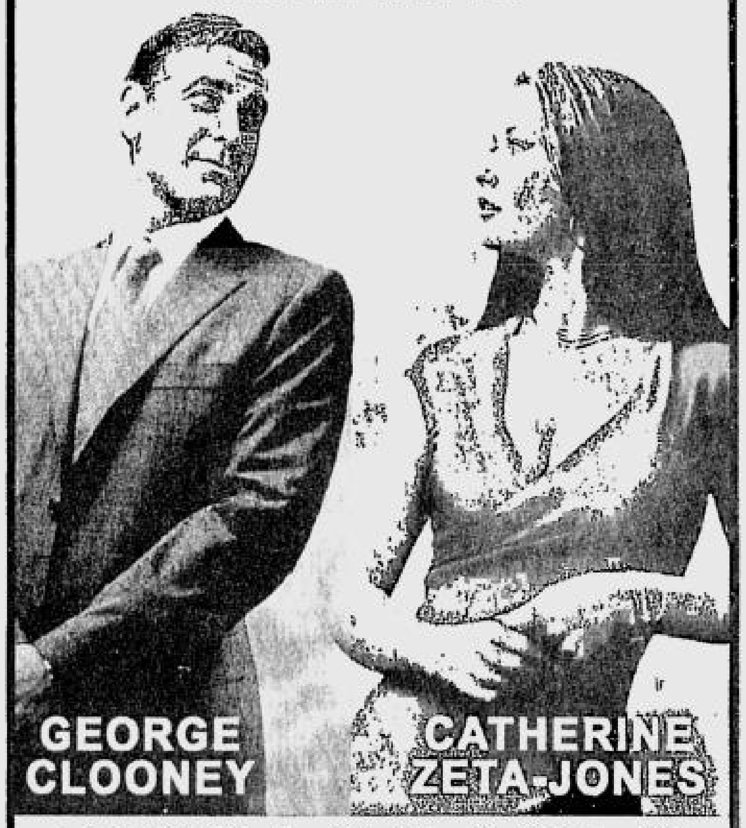
In the BATTLE of the SEXES, who will be the FIRST to BLINK and FALL in LOVE?



GEORGE CLOONEY
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
Engage the enemy.
MAGIC 89.9

SECOND WEEK!
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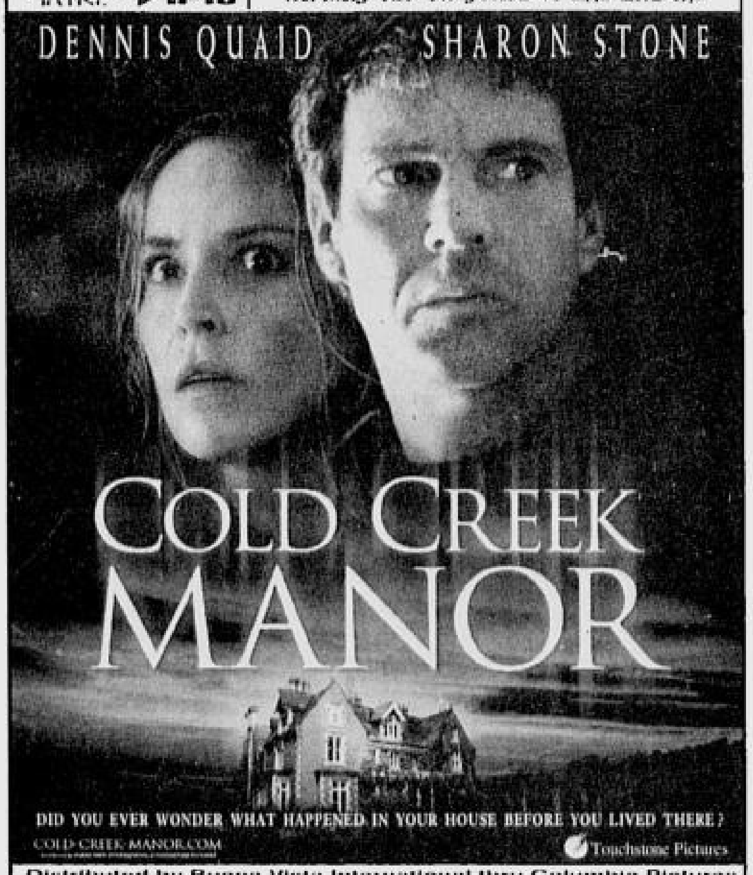
DENNIS QUAID SHARON STONE



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2	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY	THE GRUDGE	UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1 00 3 00 5 00 7 00 9 00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS INTOLERABLE CRUELTY 12 40 2 50 5 00 7 10 9 20 11 30	OUT OF TIME
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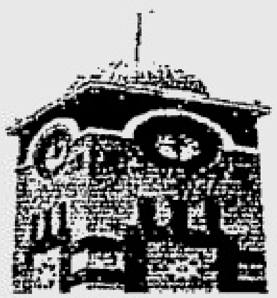

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Eagle Ridge grabs tour overall lead

EAGLE Ridge made its move in its home course, as expected, to grab the overall lead from Alta Vista on Friday and set the stage for a final round showdown in the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2003.

With a splurge of team and individual victories, the Eagle Ridge golfers came a win short of completing what could have been a sweep of all titles disputed in the third leg at their Norman course.

Eagle Ridge took Groups II and III and placed second in Group I that formed the bulk of the 40 points it amassed for the leg.

The team edged past defending champion Alta Vista after three stages with 97 points.

Alta Vista could only score 27 and fell a point behind Eagle Ridge in the overall standings at 96.

Both teams battled it out for the last time yesterday at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

The Sta. Lucia Tour is sponsored by Unirock, Petron, Readycon, Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Kodak, Samsung, Titleist, Footjoy, Yamaha, Omega and Pagcor with Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and Dusit Hotel Nikko (Manila), and Cebu Pacific.

AMERICA'S NO. 1 MOVIE
$131,000,000
total 3-weekend boxoffice todate and still counting...

America's Favorite Movie "ELF"

By Joe Baltake - The Sacramento Bee

Elf snuck past two giant epics, The Matrix Revolutions and Master and Commander to claim the number one spot at the North American box office three weekends ago. Today the film still stands at No. 3 in the US boxoffice inspite of tough competitions. The gross of ELF on its third weekend was just $3M short of hitting the No.1 spot again this weekend.

Good Word -Of -Mouth has made this movie the favorite of everyone in this season of cheers.

Who knew at the beginning of the month that the mighty sci-fi sequel **The Matrix Revolutions** would be outgunned at the box office by **Elf**?

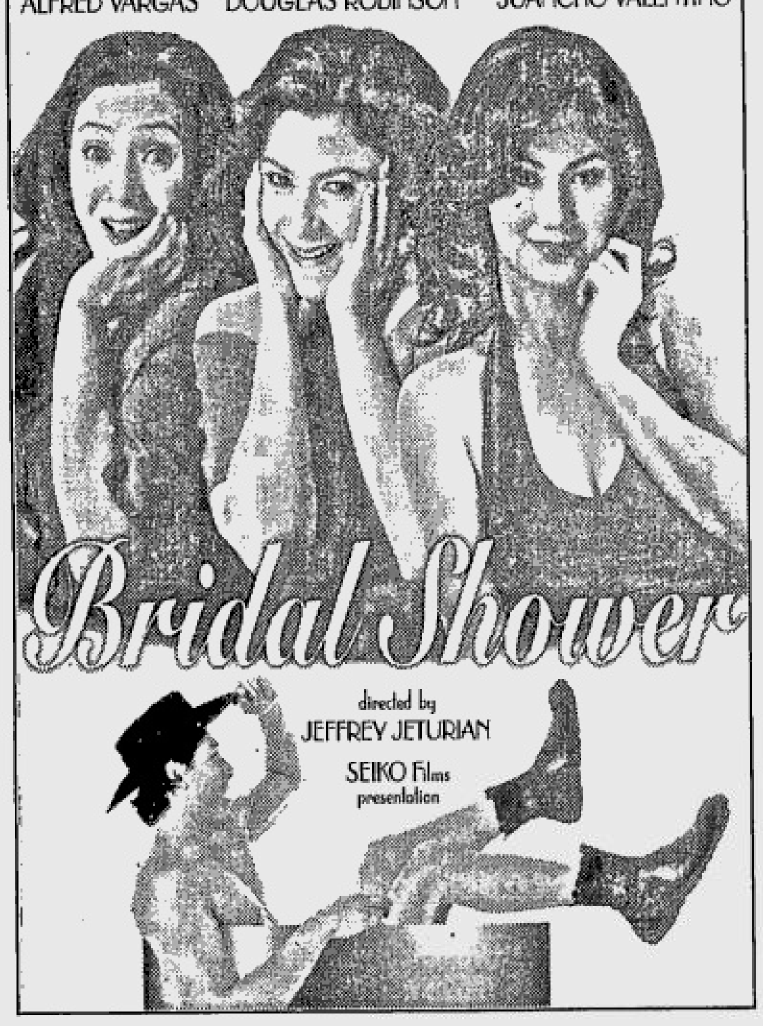
With a production cost of about $65M, the Jon Favreau-directed ELF boosted its ten-day cume to a jolly $70.4M and with such strong legs and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays still to come, could find its way to $150-200M. Though too early to compare, **Elf** will surely end up doing more business than Matrix Reloaded in the US boxoffice.

The Christmas season gets off to an early start this year with "Elf," goofy, genial, heart warming and very very funny.

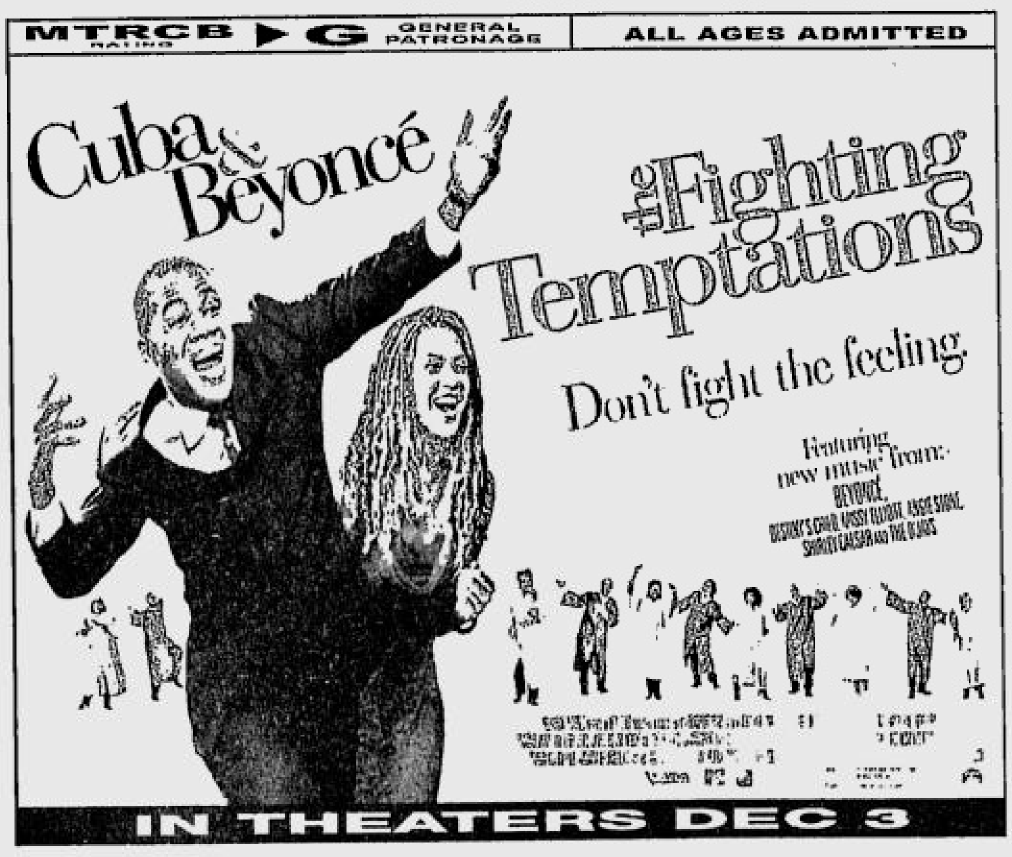
LAUGH AND HAVE FUN !
BE HAPPY THIS X-MAS !

DINA BONNEVIE FRANCINE PRIETO
CHERRY PIE PICACHE
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ
RODEL VELAYO
BOOTS ANSON ROA
GINA PAREÑO

ALFRED VARGAS DOUGLAS ROBINSON JUANCHO VALENTINO


Bridal Shower
directed by
JEFFREY JETURIAN
SEIKO Films
presentation

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED


Cuba & Beyoncé
the Fighting Temptations
Don't fight the feeling
Featuring new music from:
BEYONCÉ,
DESTINY'S CHILD, MISSY ELLIOTT, ANGIE STONE,
SHIRLEY CAESAR AND THE O'JAYS

IN THEATERS DEC 3

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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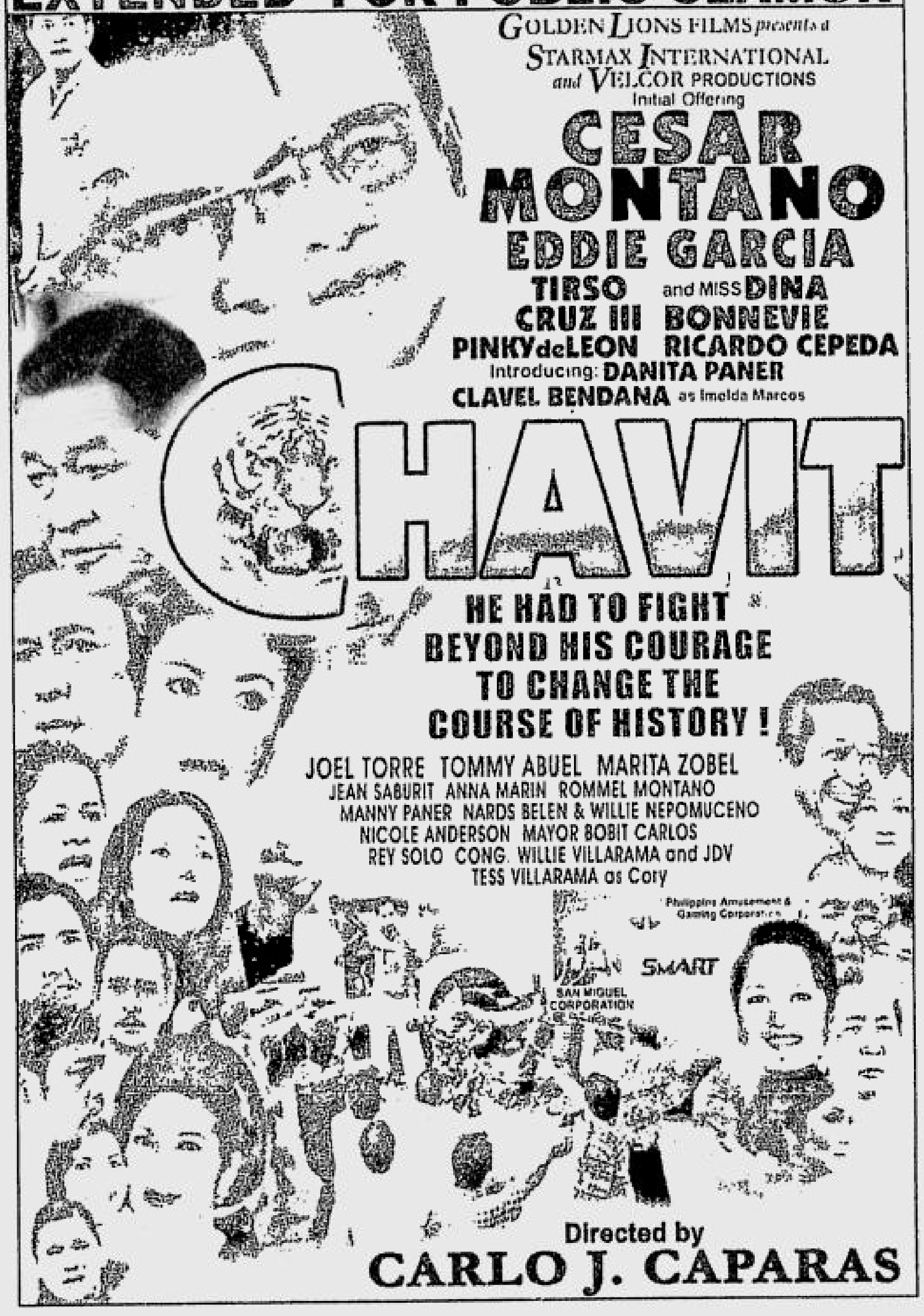
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CLAVEL BENDANA as Imelda Marcos
CHAVIT
HE HAD TO FIGHT BEYOND HIS COURAGE TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY !
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JEAN SABURIT ANNA MARIN ROMMEL MONTANO
MANNY PANER NARDS BELEN & WILLIE NEPOMUCENO
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REY SOLO CONG. WILLIE VILLARAMA and JDV
TESS VILLARAMA as Cory
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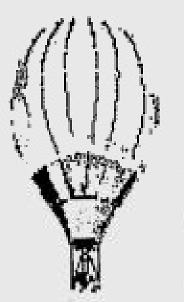
SMART
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
Directed by
CARLO J. CAPARAS



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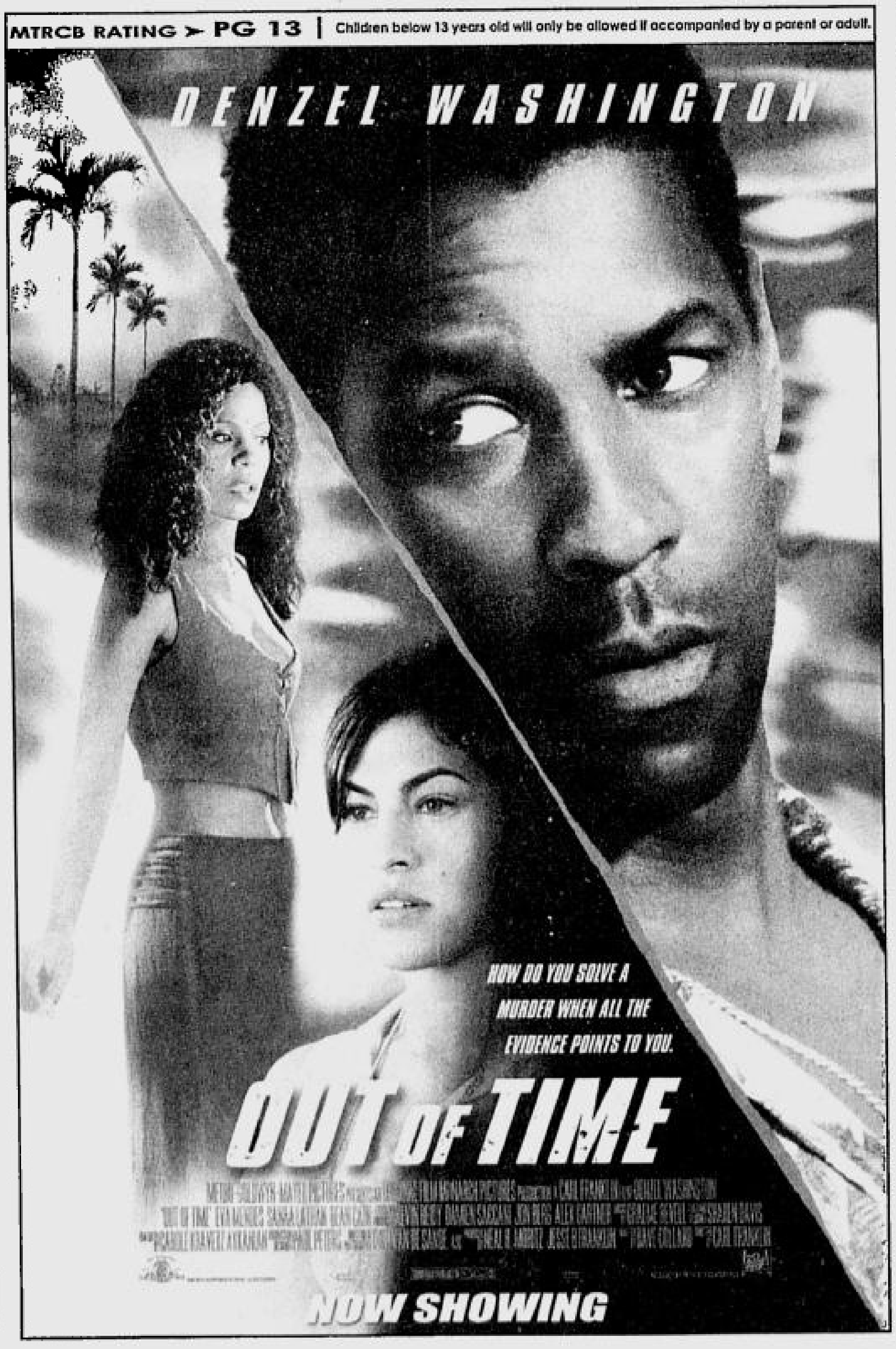
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Doc learned about finance at 5, under her dad's desk

BELO today

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HER reputation may precede her and her image to the bulk of the population is the "doktora" who sucks out people's fats, adds inches to a women's front, creates better looking skin.

Since she brought in machines to help change how a person looks and advertised these, many of her colleagues have questioned her ethics and some have even tried to discredit her by saying she is not a medical doctor.

But a chat with Vicki Belo reveals a sharp business mind that was developed at a very young age by the exposure her adoptive parents gave her. She listened to negotiations and brainstorming of major business deals since she was 5. She learned about investing by the time she was 8. And these learnings served her well in growing the Belo Medical Group, one of the largest medical centers in the country today.

FIRST JOB

Early exposure

Vicki recalls that her adoptive father—lawyer, former assemblyman and Marcos critic—Enrique Belo, would pick her up from school and bring her to his office.

While he and his colleagues, other known lawyers like Leonardo Siguion-Reyna and Juan Ponce Enrile, would talk business, the 5-year-old Vicki would be under her father's desk just listening to legal minds discuss business deals.

She was fascinated seeing her father reading Business Day, the business paper then. She also wanted to invest in the stock market.

BELO describes herself as chubby when she was a kid. But she was the apple of dad's eyes.

Her father would bring her to lunches with Andres Soriano and when she heard them talk about San Miguel Corp.'s stock offerings in the '60s, she wanted to invest in it.

First investment

She emptied her piggy bank and asked her father to invest all her savings in San Miguel shares. Her father indulged her, but bought much more than the 10 or so shares her piggy bank funds could get.

"I would get a kick opening the newspaper and checking the price of my stocks," Vicki recalls.

WITH adoptive mom Nena at less than one year old. Her hair grew when she was already 3.

She says she felt her parents did not really care much about making money. She believes it was her biological mother, Chit Cancio, the sister of her adoptive mother, who was business-minded.

But her adoptive mother, Nena Belo, taught her the nitty-gritty of doing business. Nena would bring the young Vicki to her travel agency and made her type letters.

"My mother would ask me to type a letter. And despite all the mistakes, she would pay me at the end of the day. My kids also worked at the travel agency and were given pay envelopes at the end of the day," she says.

It was also Nena who provided her with formal training for business.

"She trained me at a young age to go into baking and earn money," Vicki recalls.

Sugar flowers

It was because of sugar flowers that she got into baking.

"Whenever you go to parties, every body fights over the sugar flowers on the cake. I was probably the only child who did not know how to compete. So I decided to learn how to make sugar flower," says Vicki.

She enrolled in Sylvia Reynoso's baking classes and learned how to bake. She discovered that she not only had all the sugar flowers she wanted, but she also found a way to become popular in school.

"I was fat and wore glasses then. I wanted to be like the other cute *mestiza* girls in Assumption who were popular. I brought food to school—cupcakes with frosting—and everybody would come to me. I became popular," she recalls.

Her baking business lasted several years . During the first year, her mother, who travelled regularly, would bring home a whole suitcase full of ingredients—chocolate chip cookies, walnuts, etc.—which at that time could only be sourced abroad.

During her first year, she did not do any costings and priced her goods at whim—usually much lower than the cost of the ingredients, like P40 for an apple pie, at a time when you cannot even find apples anywhere.

"I had lots of orders," she says, starting with her aunts and her parents' relatives.

But after a year, her mother sat down with her and taught her how to do proper pricing.

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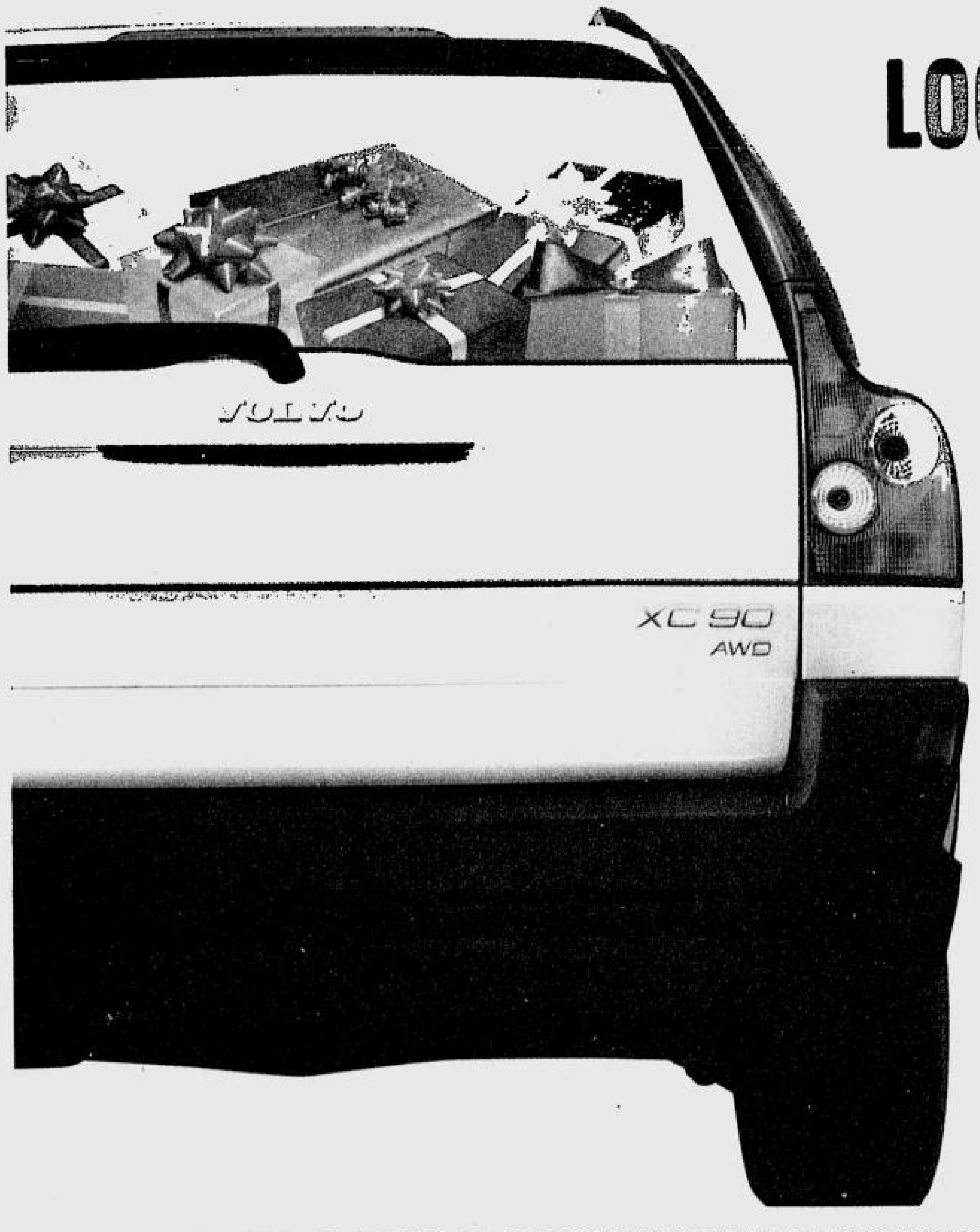
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PLAYBOY
COLLECTOR'S EDITION
50
FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

Playboy, at 50, pushes digital to stay young

NEW YORK—Playboy magazine hits 50 years old with its new January issue, but instead of easing into middle age, the purveyor of adult entertainment with its bow-tied bunny icon is using the Web and the latest TV and radio technology to grab new audiences.

Playboy magazine, whose first centerfold was Marilyn Monroe, may be looking a little gray around the edges, but parent Playboy Enterprises Inc. is trying not to cede ground to rivals.

For the past year, the company has retooled the magazine and lured a new editor, James Kaminsky, from Maxim, an aggressive competitor. Playboy's giant, 300-page anniversary issue hit newsstands on Friday.

As importantly, Playboy, run by Christie Hefner, the daughter of founder Hugh Hefner, has trained its eye on pay-per-view fees from digital cable television and online subscriptions and e-commerce to boost profits.

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"As technologies grow in terms of digital cable and satellite homes, as well as Internet use and even new platforms like wireless, I think Playboy will grow with them." Christie Hefner said in an interview.

This year, Playboy's widely held Class B stock has jumped about 60 percent, versus a 42.3 per-

PLAYBOY/ B0

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Survive the dangers of leading

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"Leadership on the Line"
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Harvard Business School Press, 2002

EXECUTIVE READ

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And he narrated to us what obsessed him to run for political office—to achieve real freedom for the country—- and to secure justice. His role in leading the Senate "that said No!" to the American military bases was one of the goals that gave him passion and intensity.

But there are risks involved in leadership. Senator Salonga almost did not survive the Plaza Miranda bombing. Still, this calling called leadership continues to beckon, and old and young, men and women respond, ignoring the dangers.

This book is for such leaders—so they can master—if not survive—the perils of leading.

In politics, in the business world and in civil society circles—the same question resounds: Shall one take a leadership role, leave the peace and quiet of a low-profile job, and place your "leadership on the line"? It is actually putting your head on the chopping black, if you please pardon the shocking metaphor.

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That is the title of this book, authored by professors of the Center for Public Leadership of the John F. Kennedy School of Government—where a number of our leaders had some training—with visible or invisible benefits!

The authors, showing intimate familiarity with the multifarious hazards of leaders, put it squarely: "To lead is to live dangerously ...when you lead people through difficult change, you challenge what people hold dear—their daily habits, tools, loyalties and ways of thinking—with nothing more to offer perhaps than a possibility."

And yet even if the dangers abound, some leaders—like Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho—chose to leave the ordered life of a highly successful investment banker and join the "snake pit" in the Palace. The book says that there are indeed those who are driven by a genuine desire to serve.

The first part of the book does not mince words about the dangers. The authors warn: "When exercising leadership, you risk getting marginalized, diverted, attacked, or seduced. When people resist adaptive work, their goal is to shoot down those who exercise leadership in order to preserve what they have."

If you are a leader, you can identify with many of the hazards of leadership - from being placed in a freezer to being led to lose focus; from being attacked (verbally—and even physically) to being seduced to take up a cause for its fleeting appeal.

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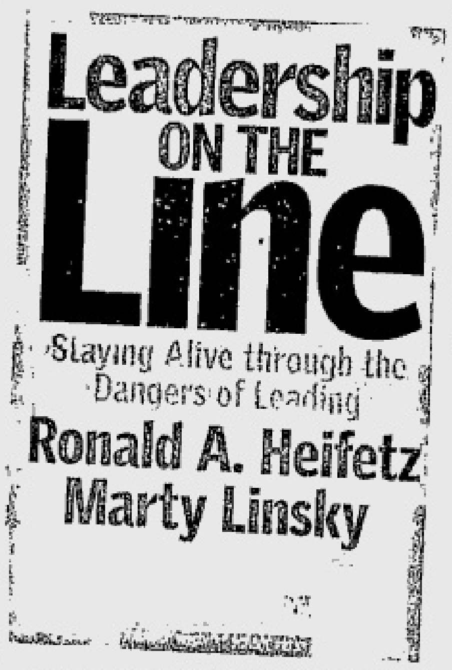
After amply warning the reader about land mines and traps along the way, the authors discuss at length the suitable responses to the dangers - or challenges.

One of the more useful advice is to



"get on the balcony." The book explains:

"Any military officer knows the importance of maintaining the capacity for reflection, even in the 'fog of war'. Great athletes can at once play the game and observe it as a whole—as Walt Whitman described it, 'being both in and out of the game.' ... We call this skill 'getting off the dance floor and going to the balcony... We all get swept into action when it becomes intense or personal and we need most to pause."

The book is also instructive to people who, when a business plan has been written, look at it as one "cast in granite." "Leadership is an improvisational art," the book says. And it goes on to narrate the story of General Dwight Eisenhower.

After leading the successful D-Day invasion on the beaches of Normandy, the first thing former American President Eisenhower was "to throw out the plan."

The authors enshrine two leadership qualities: discipline and flexibility. You take action, step back and assess the results of the action, reassess the plan, then go to the dance floor and make the next move.

"Think politically," is another valuable advice, not for the practitioners of the art—the politicians—but for business executives who are so focused on results that they forget the need to have some political savvy.

Master the terrain

Many sad and happy stories are documented in the book.

More strategies—orchestrating the conflict and letting the issue ripen— will serve the leader in good stead after he places himself on the line. On anchoring yourself, the book tells the engaging story of two good looking American presidential aspirants—one lost, the other won.

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(dantem@i-next.net)

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From page B1

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She worked on the creative floor and Vicki says that looking back now, this was probably where she got her creativity for marketing.

The Belo Medical Group sets itself apart from the physical look of most clinics because it adopted different interiors—doing away with plain white walls and instead, splashing paintings or wall paper on the wall.

AS A young teenager

DURING her teens, dancing became a passion.

The group adopted the butterfly as its symbol, representing the change that can happen to you with her treatments.

She says it is important to always think of a spin for a new product. It was there she learned to do test marketing every time she introduces a new good.

"Some say I am a natural marketer," Vicki says.

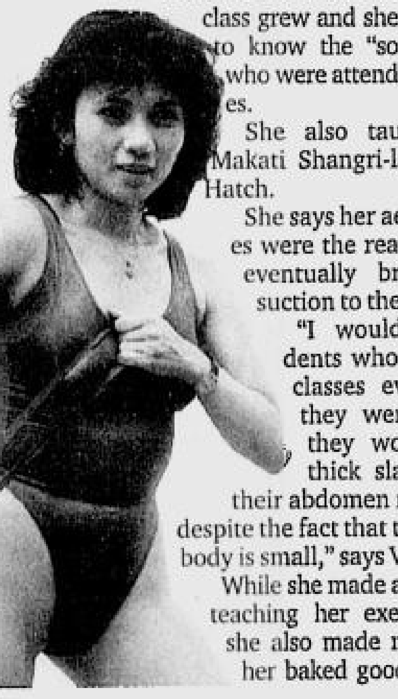
She stayed with the agency for 10 months. She stopped work when she got pregnant because she had a bad case of morning sickness and had to stay in bed the whole time. Because of the hormonal changes, her face was covered with pimples. Also, since she had to stop her medication for hypothyroidism, she gained 80 pounds. She decided to go home to Manila.

Back to med school

After childbirth, she continued her medical studies. But at the same time, she taught aerobics. She was one of the first to bring it to Manila. She had classes at the Jane Fonda School in Los Angeles, where Madonna was her classmate.

At the same time, she went back to baking to earn extra.

Her medical classes would end at 4 p.m. at UST and she would rush back to the Manila Polo Club to teach aerobics. Soon, her class grew and she says she got to know the "sosyal" people who were attending her classes.


SHE WAS one of the first to bring aerobics to Manila.

She also taught at the Makati Shangri-la and Clark Hatch.

She says her aerobics classes were the reason why she eventually brought liposuction to the country.

"I would have students who were in my classes everyday and they were thin. But they would have a thick slab of fat on their abdomen making it big despite the fact that the rest of the body is small," says Vicki.

While she made a lot of money teaching her exercise classes, she also made money selling her baked goods to her students.

DR. VICKI wed Atom Henares in the early '80s. Two months after the wedding they left for the US.

After med school, she was able to join a new program for dermatology at the Makati Medical Center after so much difficulty and controversy.

Choosing dermatology

Her choices for specialization included pediatrics and obstetrics-gynecology. But she explains that you usually treat kids who are sick, which means they are crying or are cranky. Add to this, the mothers who are worried and hysterical. So despite the fact that she likes kids, she says she did not like dealing with hysterics.

Obstetrics and gynecology was something she wanted because it meant being involved in the miracle of childbirth. But she could not stand the smell of antiseptics and a hospital in general.

Dermatology was not looked upon as a serious medical field then and was considered part of cosmetology.

She recalls that her classmates scoffed at the idea of her going into dermatology.

Vicki, however, was inspired to go into it because she has been seeing a dermotologist for her acne problems since she was 12.

Just a few months into her residency at the Makati Medical Center for dermatology, Vicki quit because she was unhappy with the working environment.

It came to a point where she was criticized for smiling too much, humming a tune while attending to a patient and wearing too much jewelry.

She looked for training centers in dermatology and she found one in Thailand, so she went there.

She chose the Thai center over the St. John's center in London because the center set up by the Japanese government dealt mostly with Asians, which would serve her well when she goes back to the Philippines.

It was at the Thai center where she learned about laser surgery and liposuction machines.

"It was an eye-opener for me. I learned so much," she says.

It was then that she set up her own clinic and brought in the machines.

She had very few patients when she started because nobody knew about the machines and what they can do.

Vicki, thus, went into advertising and she has not run out of patients since then.

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JANUARY 2004 • www.playboy.com
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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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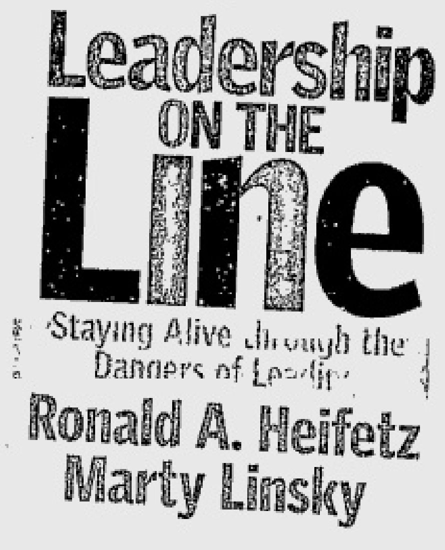

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Since she types fast, she eventually found work as a word processor at Foote Cone and Belding (FCB), one of the big advertising agencies then.

She worked on the creative floor and Vicki says that looking back now, this was probably where she got her creativity for marketing.

The Belo Medical Group sets itself apart from the physical look of most clinics because it adopted different interiors—doing away with plain white walls and instead, splashing paintings or wall paper on the wall.

The group adopted the butterfly as its symbol, representing the change that can happen to you with her treatments.

She says it is important to always think of a spin for a new product. It was there she learned to do test marketing every time she introduces a new good.

"Some say I am a natural marketer," Vicki says.

She stayed with the agency for 10 months. She stopped work when she got pregnant because she had a bad case of morning sickness and had to stay in bed the whole time. Because of the hormonal changes, her face was covered with pimples. Also, since she had to stop her medication for hypothyroidism, she gained 80 pounds. She decided to go home to Manila.

Back to med school

After childbirth, she continued her medical studies. But at the same time, she taught aerobics. She was one of the first to bring it to Manila. She had classes at the Jane Fonda School in Los Angeles, where Madonna was her classmate.

At the same time, she went back to baking to earn extra.

Her medical classes would end at 4 p.m. at UST and she would rush back to the Manila Polo Club to teach aerobics. Soon, her class grew and she says she got to know the "sosyal" people who were attending her classes.

She also taught at the Makati Shangri-la and Clark Hatch.

She says her aerobics classes were the reason why she eventually brought liposuction to the country.

"I would have students who were in my classes everyday and they were thin. But they would have a thick slab of fat on their abdomen making it big despite the fact that the rest of the body is small," says Vicki.

While she made a lot of money teaching her exercise classes, she also made money selling her baked goods to her students.

After med school, she was able to join a new program for dermatology at the Makati Medical Center after so much difficulty and controversy.

Choosing dermatology

Her choices for specialization included pediatrics and obstetrics-gynecology. But she explains that you usually treat kids who are sick, which means they are crying or are cranky. Add to this, the mothers who are worried and hysterical. So despite the fact that she likes kids, she says she did not like dealing with hysterics.

Obstetrics and gynecology was something she wanted because it meant being involved in the miracle of childbirth. But she could not stand the smell of antiseptics and a hospital in general.

Dermatology was not looked upon as a serious medical field then and was considered part of cosmetology.

She recalls that her classmates scoffed at the idea of her going into dermatology.

Vicki, however, was inspired to go into it because she has been seeing a dermotologist for her acne problems since she was 12.

Just a few months into her residency at the Makati Medical Center for dermatology, Vicki quit because she was unhappy with the working environment.

It came to a point where she was criticized for smiling too much, humming a tune while attending to a patient and wearing too much jewelry.

She looked for training centers in dermatology and she found one in Thailand, so she went there.

She chose the Thai center over the St. John's center in London because the center set up by the Japanese government dealt mostly with Asians, which would serve her well when she goes back to the Philippines.

It was at the Thai center where she learned about laser surgery and liposuction machines.

"It was an eye-opener for me. I learned so much," she says.

It was then that she set up her own clinic and brought in the machines.

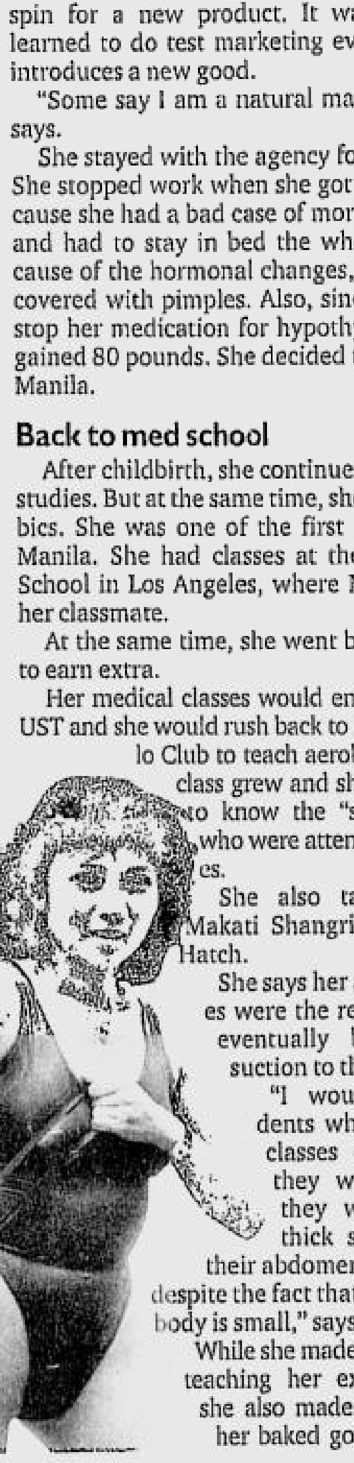
She had very few patients when she started because nobody knew about the machines and what they can do.

Vicki, thus, went into advertising and she has not run out of patients since then.

AS A young teenager

DR. VICKI wed Atom Henares in the early '80s. Two months after the wedding they left for the US.

DURING her teens, dancing became a passion.


SHE WAS one of the first to bring aerobics to Manila.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Playboy, at 50, pushes digital to stay young

From page B2

cent gain in the Russell 2000 index . RUT of small-company stocks. Playboy shares rose 2 cents to $16.21 on Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Its stock is shunned by investors avoiding the adult entertainment sector. Many so-called socially conscious mutual funds, for example, stay away.

"In our case we just don't view their product as having a positive impact on society," said Todd Ahlsten, director of research at Parnassus Investments in San Francisco.

Focusing on TV

Playboy has come a long way since 1953, when Hugh Hefner, then 27, borrowed $8,000 to finance Playboy magazine and created the first issue in his Chicago apartment.

Chicago-based Playboy has forecast that full-year operating profit should nearly triple to roughly $25 million from $8.6 million in 2002, helped in part by advertising from the anniversary issue, its biggest in 18 years in terms of paid advertising.

With magazine publishing considered a mature business, Playboy hopes for growth in digital cable TV revenues—including pay-per-view fees from adult movies and its Spice and Playboy TV channels.

Since acquiring three adult TV operations in mid-2001, Playboy's domestic TV revenues have increased 27 percent to $94 million in 2002 from $74 million in 2000.

This year, the spotlight has been on international since Playboy bought out its overseas partner. Through the first nine months of 2003, international TV sales rose to $25 million from $9.8 million in 2002.

Last year, revenue from TV and videos eclipsed publishing for the first time. This year, the Internet group, which had been a loss leader, began turning a profit.

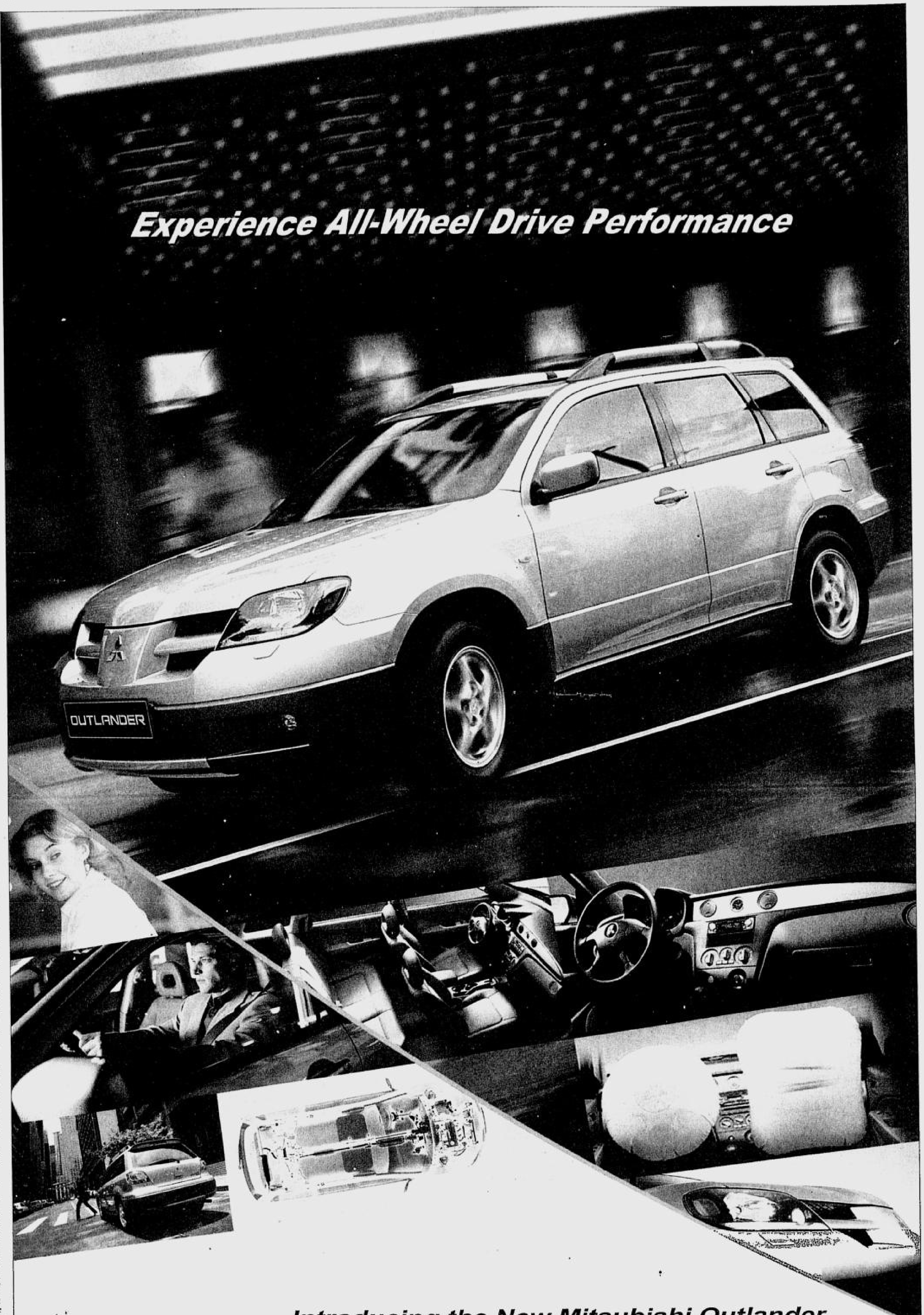
"Playboy has managed to maintain a pretty strong position, certainly in the magazine area. Then gradually, the Internet developed, and that has created a whole new outlet," said analyst Dennis McAlpine of McAlpine Associates.

Playboy magazine became a symbol of the sexual revolution in the 1960s, but since its heyday, US circulation has fallen about 50 percent to 3.2 million. The magazine has recently been fighting off a slew of brassy competitors, including Maxim, FHM and Stuff, as well as a severe advertising slump.

With its push into cable TV and the Internet, Hefner said Playboy has a bigger audience than ever.

"I think we have reinforced our position as the pre-eminent branded content supplier for entertainment for grown-ups," she said.

Reuters



Introducing the New Mitsubishi Outlander

From the Lancer Evolution comes the All-Wheel Drive System of the new Mitsubishi Outlander. Experience the control and safety of all-wheel driving as you blaze through the urban jungle. Conquer all roads with the all-wheel drive system of the new Mitsubishi Outlander.

MITSUBISHI
OUTLANDER
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

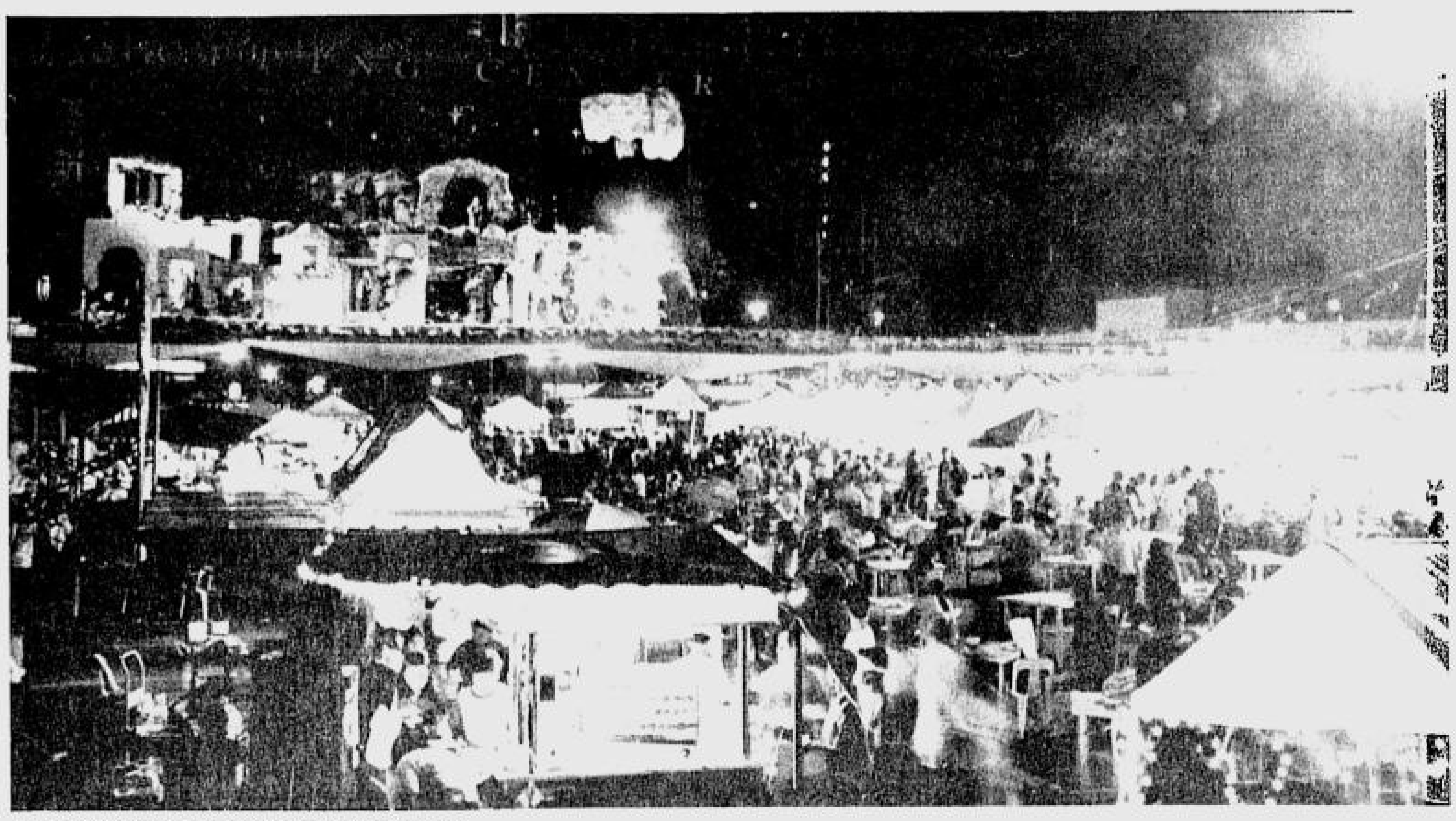
Yuletide '03: Faces of shoppers and shopping

IF SALES at department stores are not as brisk as years past, it might be due to the fact that Filipinos have turned to the tiangges to get their Christmas gifts.

The metropolis is littered with these shopping areas where one can shop as early as 7 in the morning (Divisoria) or as late as midnight (Greenhills).

Baclaran has been rid of its street vendors. Although if its Mayor Joey Marquez would have his way, he will bring back all the undisciplined ways of street vending to the place.

INQUIRER photographer Randy Hormillosa went around these three places to check out Christmas Shopping 2003. Below is the result of several days of shoots:


A BUSY night in Greenhills Shopping Center

CALENDARS sell well during this time.

BUYERS brave the crowds

CHRISTMAS tree, anyone?

SHOES, shoes and more cheap shoes

A GARMENT vendor in Divisoria

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

TOYS are always a hit with buyers

BACLARAN is now clear of street vendors

Papaya soap wins consumer award

SINCE its inception 20 years ago, the annual National Consumers Quality Awards has set the gauge by which consumer products are judged in terms of quality, public service, pricing and public perception. As such, local manufacturers have set their insights on achieving the standards formulated by the NCQA in their bid to establish a positive image and earn the patronage of the buying public for their homegrown products.

Thus, when KISSA Papaya Plus Soap recently won the "The Family and Consumer's Choice Award" and "The Most Innovative Herbal Soap Award" from the National Consumers Quality Awards, the win honors recognize the brand's commitment to quality, innovation, creativity, and service.

KISSA has made significant strides in the short time that it has been in the market. Despite the presence of older and more established soap brands in its category, KISSA was able to successfully make an impact on the public. From its launch, it quickly established an image that communicates a highlevel of sophistication, yet one that is friendly on the pocket.

"Even before we launched KISSA, we went into extensive research to help determine the right product positioning," relates Jenni Gonzales, KISSA's Marketing Manager. "Initially, we invested heavily on advertising to establish brand image and create awareness so as to entice trial." To achieve this, KISSA relied on the strong mass appeal of TV and host Kris Aquino, who herself tried the product before agreeing to lend her name and face in the massive campaign for KISSA. "Kris was the most ideal image for the brand because she is intelligent, credible and an unwavering stickler for the trut—the very reasons why a lot of women look up to her. And as the public knows, she only endorses products that earn her approval after using them herself, "Gonzales says.

Native Christmas decor making in Albay

By Joyce M. Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DARAGA, Albay—Leah Nuñez, 52, started producing Christmas decor five years ago from an investment of P500, which she earned from making fans out of anahaw leaves.

Nuñez says she diversified into Christmas decors because she realized that she could not rely on the sale of anahaw fans alone. Her first products were Christmas lanterns, also made of anahaw.

Nuñez's products now include the "parol" (Christmas lantern) made of anahaw leaves and abaca fiber. She expanded her line to include native bags, flowers made of anahaw leaves, twine balls, boxes made of abaca, tissue holders and other native wall decors.

Starts with leaves

The Anahaw parol is made of young anahaw leaves (those that are not yet fully open). The leaves are then stripped and dried under the sun to strengthen them.

The dried leaves are placed in a container and dyed. They are again dried under the sun to absorb the color of the dye. After this, the leaves will be cut into the desired length. Assembling follows.

The strips are tied in the center using wires to form a circular shape, which comprise the parol's body that are divided into three—the arc or the upper portion and the two lower portions on both sides.

Rolled anahaw fans or abanico formed into a star is added at the center of the parol to enhance the design. Christmas lights are often added.

LEAH Nuñez' child and grandchildren busy themselves, especially on Saturdays and Sundays making Christmas lanterns.

PHOTOS BY FREDDIE ROSAROS, PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Abaca lantern

The abaca lantern undergoes almost the same process as the anahaw lantern. Only the materials and accessories are different.

The abaca lantern, unlike the anahaw parol, is still adorned with ornamental items like little angels, tiny colorful flowers or artificial candles.

These accessories add style and attraction to the products, which also come in different colors and styles. It could be just a plain but cute circle or a fully adorned lantern.

"A buyer can still enhance the lantern. If he wants, he can add Christmas lights on them to make them more attractive and beautiful," Nuñez says.

Export supplier

Nuñez says they supply products to a handicraft exporting company in Metro Manila.

They also have clients in the Visayas and from within the region such as local handicraft store owners in markets and malls in Albay.

Aside from regular clients, travelers to and from Metro Manila also drop by their place since they are along the national highway.

The biggest anahaw parol costs P80 while the smaller one costs P50.

The prices of abaca parols range from P25 to P75 each, depending on the size and design.

No expertise

Nuñez admits to having no expertise in making designs.

When they deliver abanicos (anahaw fans) for an exporter in Metro Manila, she takes a good look at the designs.

"My personal observations when I travel help me a lot to get more ideas in making other beautiful crafts. So I come up with other items, aside from the usual abanicos," Nuñez says.

Through the business, Nuñez says, they were able to purchase lots for their kids and send their five kids and even grandchildren to school.

"It really helps not only our family but also our workers. It became their source of living, too," she stresses.

The business maintains about 15 workers. Some of them work inside the factory and some just make the items in their respective homes.

"I'm so happy because this business also gives opportunities to our fellow villagers to earn money for their families," she says with pride.

A worker colors the Christmas lantern by putting it in boiling water with dye.

People, Events & Products

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Elizabeth Arden opens the red door to timeless beauty

AS THE only name that bears a red door to eternal beauty and glamour, Elizabeth Arden has finally built a pathway to the fountain of youth. The most opulent expedition to younger, wrinkle-free skin is bound to take its final halt with the advent of beauty world's premier anti-aging potion, the new Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Plump Moisture Cream SPF 30.

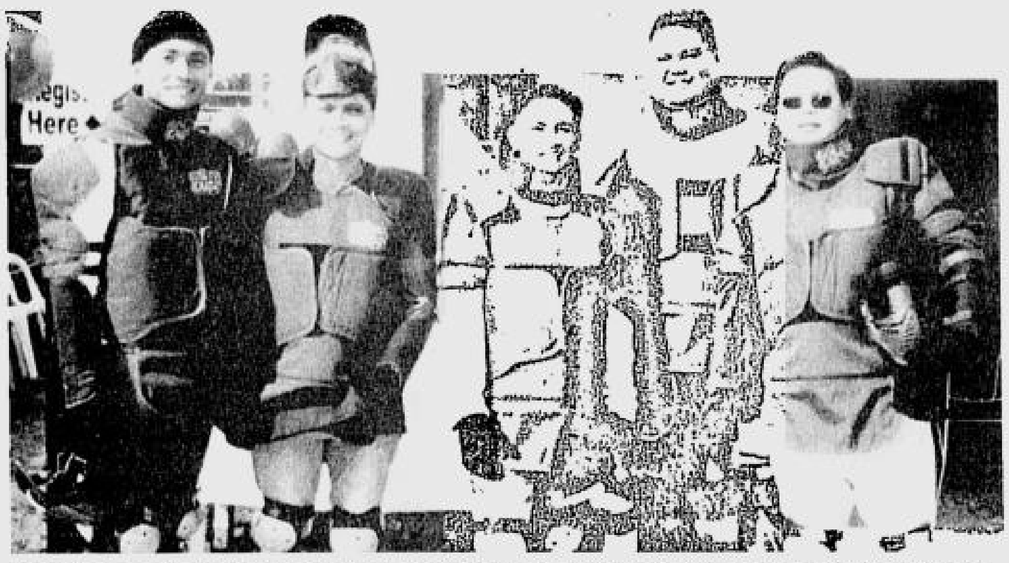
Dietary convictions and weight issues aside, plump becomes the last word in revitalizing skin care, armed with the premise that skin is enlivened to its freshest by plumping the thin and tired lines caused by age's wear and tear. A combination of a special formula of six amino acids - the skin's natural rebuilders - called Argireline with the highly-potent marriage of silky Ceramide 1, 3 and 6 - the first ever in advanced skincare - makes Ceramide Plump Perfect Moisture Cream SPF 30 a monsoon rain to any skin drought.

This revolutionary entrance of breakthrough science in the art of beauty is bent on reducing surface lines by up to 27 percent after only one month. Now, a lifetime of wrinkles has met its deadline in just 30 easy days.

Further made more potent and convenient with the increased level of crease-combatants targeted to flawless skin's worst enemy - the sun's UV rays - the Ceramide Plump Perfect Moisture Cream is completed with a generous helping of SPF 30, becoming every grand dame's parasol to pristine and perfect skin.

With a complete skincare ally found in only one bottle, Elizabeth Arden's Ceramide Plump Perfect Moisture Cream SPF 30 delivers skin-plumping benefits powered by supercharged moisture and Ceramide technology, capped by the most protective SPF number to date, to erase the limits of time in just one month and to produce the luxury of line-free lovely skin.

Ceramide Plump Perfect Moisture Cream SPF 30 is available at Elizabeth Arden counters in SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and all Rustan's Department Stores. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation.



HONDA CARS MAKATI ALL GEARED UP FOR PAINTBALL CHALLENGE

Everybody was at high spirits at Boomland's Global Gutz Boom Camp in Pasay City for Honda Cars Makati's (HCM) Paintball Challenge held recently for HCM's corporate accounts. Teams were named after the popular Honda variants: Accord, CR-V, Civic, and City. In photo are the champions belonging to the CR-V team composed of (from left) Clifford Poblador, Oscar Apuyan, Paul Ramos, Erwin Dotimas, and Honda Cars Makati Sales Executive Richard Ong. The event was made possible by Global Gutz, Shell Helix, OE Racing, 3M Scotchtint, Keylargo, Nippon Paint, Honda Cars Phils, and Island Cove.

BARBIE OF SWAN LAKE INTERACTIVE MALL TOUR

Barbie of Swan Lake has toured the various malls in Metro Manila since September. Kids have enjoyed face painting, art galore, movie galore, and a kiddie salon. Shown in the picture are the Barbie Kiddie Models enjoying the catwalk during the fashion show. Catch more of Barbie in her Swan Lake Christmas Party on Dec. 14, 2 to 6 p.m. at the 6th floor of Rustan's Makati. Barbie of Swan Lake Interactive Mall Tour 2003 is brought to you buy Richwell Trading Corp and co-presented by Tender Care and Magic 89.9. For more details, call 732-5141 to 47 loc. 210 and 211, email mktg@richwell.net.

Motorola and Seattle's Best: the best mix this season

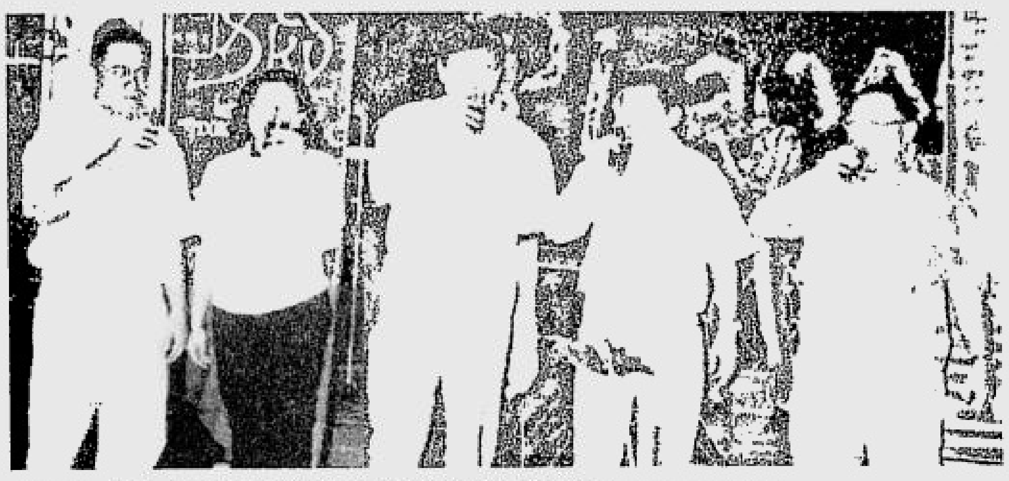
HAVE the best treat this Christmas as Seattle's Best Coffee gives you the chance to win a brand new phone just by ordering two of their new Yultide concoctions.

Recently, Cellstar Philippines Inc, one of the largest distributors of Motorola cellphones in the country, and Coffee Masters Inc of Seattle's Best Coffee tied-up for the most invigorating and exciting promo for the holidays. Now, every two orders of the new Christmas Fruit Frosts - available in four refreshing flavors of mango, citrus passion, four seasons and soursop - at any Seattle's Best Coffee branch entitles customers to win a free upsize of the next Fruit Frost purchase or the sleek Motorola C350.

The latest cellphone model to hit the local market, the new Motorola C350 gives the word "cellphone" a new and more personalized twist. It allows your creativity to get the best of you as you can personalize this lightweight yet high-tech gadget. It has front and back interchangeable covers and GPRS that makes downloading ringtones, wallpapers, screensavers and other multimedia enhancements easier, so you can make your Motorola C350 look however you want it, depending on your mood. The phone's awesome rich color display and full support Java games and applications provides a more unique gaming experience. Plus its mixable polyphonic ringtones can create tunes that show one's individuality.

Present during the contract signing held at the Tomas Morato branch of Seattle's Best Coffee were Motorola Philippines country manager Arlene Aran Amante, Cellstar marketing manager Alberto Abaquin Jr., and Coffee Masters Inc marketing manager Michelle David. Also in the event were executives from Maverick Advertising, the agency of Cellstar Philippines Inc.

So get refreshed and win in style this Christmas. Buy your Fruit Frosts now and have your own Motorola C350.



COCA-COLA COMPANY INTRODUCES EARTH AND SKY

Last Oct. 7 and 9, the Coca-Cola Company marked another marketing milestone as it introduced the latest addition to its product portfolio, new Earth and Sky Lemon Iced Tea. A luau-inspired product launch was held in Manila and was followed with another launch in Cagayan de Oro City attended by the Philippine Beverage Partners Inc sales force and the centralized key accounts group of San Miguel. In photo are (from left) Dean Valera (Philippine beverage area sales manager for Mindanao), Lyn Reyes (Coke export group brand manager for non-juice products), Nelson Elises (Philippine beverage national sales manager), Wilson délos Reyes (Philippine beverage area sales manager for Visayas), Rey Billena (Philippine beverage general manager).

Ford Makati
Dealer of the Year
1999-2002

WOW WATSONS CARD WINNER

Grace Rivera, extreme right, merchandise director of Watsons personal cares stores, Phils Inc awards to lucky shopper Iluminada Tenorio of Sampaloc, Manila the key to a brand-new Ford Lynx in the recently concluded Wow Watsons Card raffle event. The month-long promotion highlighted the sustained thrust of Watsons Philippines to enjoin customers to avail of the extra values offered by the store's promotional efforts. Also present at the Wow Watsons Card awarding ceremony at Ford Makati are (from left) Rene Lao, general manager of Ford Makati and David Macasadia, VP sales and marketing Ford Group (Phils).

Bikolcar Accessories Center opens in Naga

PEOPLE care for their cars the way they care for themselves. Indeed, cars have become an extension for their owners, worthy of the best in service and maintenance, and outfitted with the latest gadgets.

Now car owners in Naga City and other Bicol towns can experience added value in car care and accessories with the opening of Bikolcar Accessories Center located at Ramco Bldg., Concepcion Grande, Naga City.

Bikolcar Accessories Center offers a wide range of car care products and accessories at prices comparable with stores in Banawe, Quezon City or even less. It also offers free installation on security and alarm system, backing sensor, power windows and antenna, bullbars and stepboard for AUVs and SUV series, fog lights and lighting effects, car stereo and speakers.

For more information on Bikolcar Accessories Center, call 811-1601 or 475-6243.

YOUNG VIOLINISTS PERFORM IN CONCERT

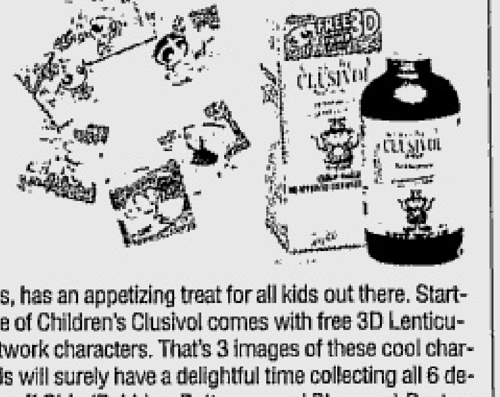
The violin ensemble of the Mandaluyong Strings Orchestra was recently presented in a mini-concert by the Mandaluyong Center for the Performing Arts. The young talents are pioneer government scholars of the four-month old MCPA. Shown at right is Joshua Legaspi, Mastrio music director.

RAPID CITY REALTY DEV'T CORP WINS AWARD

Rapid City Realty and Development Corp was the recipient of the Safest Quarry Operations Award for three consecutive years. The awards night celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) held on Nov. 13 at the Manila Hotel was graced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Photo shows Angelita Iñiguez Lee receiving the award for Rapid City Realty. From left are PMSEA president Jose Ernesto Rodriguez, Angelita Iñiguez Lee, Neda Sec. Romulo Neri, MGB director Horacio Ramos, MGB assistant director Edwin Domingo and RCR mining engineer Renato Villanueva.

ProductFILES

Children's Clusivol 3D stickers



CHILDREN'S Clusivol, the trusted comprehensive vitamin and mineral supplement with Lusog-Gana nutrients, has an appetizing treat for all kids out there. Starting Aug. 4, every purchase of Children's Clusivol comes with free 3D Lenticular stickers of Cartoon Network characters. That's 3 images of these cool characters in every sticker. Kids will surely have a delightful time collecting all 6 designs featuring the Powerpuff Girls (Bubbles, Buttercup and Blossom) Dexter and Deedee and Johnny Bravo. Get one free sticker with every 60 ml bottle, 2 stickers with 120 ml bottle, 3 stickers with 250 ml bottle and 4 stickers with 500 ml bottle. Hurry this appetizing treat is only good until supplies last.

Christmas baskets from Crossings

THINKING of gift options this Christmas? Come to Crossings Supermarket and choose from a variety of Christmas baskets full of goodies. These goodies are artfully arrange in specially designed baskets and are priced from P800 to P3,500. Visit Crossings Department Store and Supermarket, with branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City, Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, and at Quezon Ave. and Northridge Plaza along Congressional Ave., both in Quezon City, and its newest branch located along C. Raymundo Ave. in Caniogan, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 635-4410 to 14 or 373-2558.

Bits Clips

Rizal HS homecoming

THE RIZAL High School Batch '79 will be having its grand alumni homecoming today at 8 a.m. at the Rizal High School Gymnasium. The event will carry the theme "Were proud to be among the best." For more details contact Marlon Caparas at 0919-3172905, Thelma Pdilla-Limjoco at 642-8815 and Rico Montefalcon at 0917-8947476.

Concert at the Park Christmas presentations

CONCERT at the park presents its Christmas presentations. On Dec. 7, the Manila Ballet Repertory and the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet performs excerpts from "The Nutcraker Suit". The Temple Hill Int'l School Ensemble under the musical direction of Ruby Salvosa renders a play titled "Inside the Outside Inn" on Dec. 14. On Dec. 21, a performance by the University of the East Chorale, under the musical direction of Anna Tabita Abeleda. A special program featuring classical guitarist Lester Demetillo, flutist Hercules Santiago and a guest soprano awaits the public on Dec. 28. Admission is free, every Sunday at 5 p.m.

8th National Press Congress opens registration

REGISTRATION of delegates to the 8th National Press Congress scheduled on Dec. 7 to 9 at the Hyatt Hotel and the Ambassador Hotel, Manila is now open. The secretariat located at Units 202 and 206, Cityland Condominium VIII, 98 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, tel. 892-9278, 894-4687; 0916-751-9005 and email papi_npc@yahoo.com, is now accepting registrations.

NATIONAL SPORTS GRILL LAUNCHES EXTRA INNINGS

National Sports Grill, the undisputed king of sports grills recently launched its latest banquets promo called Extra Innings. Just hold your private parties or corporate functions at NSG and the chance to bring home a 10 percent discount card for future visits. The multiple-use discounts shall be given to all attendees and extended to all employees. The validity of the discount is determined by the total party package. With its spacious interiors, NSG is the ideal place for parties of 50 to 500. Photo shows a corporate event of one of the country's leading insurance companies. National Sports Grill is located at the 3rd Floor Greenbelt 1 Makati City. For more information on this great offer, call 752-5471 or 752-5431, look for Ms. Rose Dela Rosa, Banquets Coordinator. Visit on-line at www.nsg.ph.

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LOT

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MANDALUYONG

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COMMERCIAL

LAGUNA

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LOT

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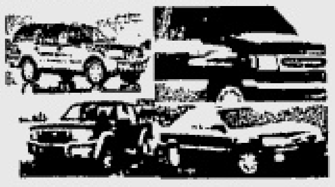

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December 7, 2003

8:00 AM	- Registration
8:30 AM	- Judging
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Ring 2	- Herding & Non-Sporting Group
12:00 NN	- Lunch Break
12:30 PM	- Registration
1:00 PM	- Judging
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Ring 2	- S Husky, Dobe, G Dane, Boxer, Rottweiler

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Everybody WELCOME to Int'l PSYCHIC CONGRESS to be held at MAX'S Res. Greenbelt Makati Time 10am - 5pm Interested Psychic or Psychic to be call Tel. 435-2396
EDWIN AGPAOA

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Rufino I. Arcadio was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 134 Page 28 Book WII Series 2003 by Notary Public Atty Librado S. Angeles
(PDI - Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2003)

PERSONAL

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The corporate term of Collective Communications, Inc. has been shortened to three years ending on November 27, 2003 through a resolution approved by majority of the members of its board of directors in a meeting duly called for the purpose and ratified by stockholders representing 2/3 of its outstanding capital stock. Wherefore, the corporation is deemed dissolve as of said date and business operations shall cease forthwith.

(Sgd.) **Christine Y. Salvacion**
Acting Corporate Secretary

(PDI-Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 2003)

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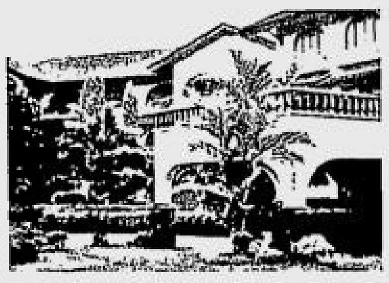
Present at **The Columbary** and **Platinum Plans** contract signing were (from left to right) **Liz Reyes,** Managing Director of the Redoble Development Corporation, **Roland Redoble,** Chairman and CEO of the Redoble Development Corporation, **Ernesto L. Salas,** Chairman and President of Platinum Plans, and **Ma. Rhodora R. Salas,** Senior Vice President Financial Director of Platinum Plans.

RDC and Platinum Plans contract signing.

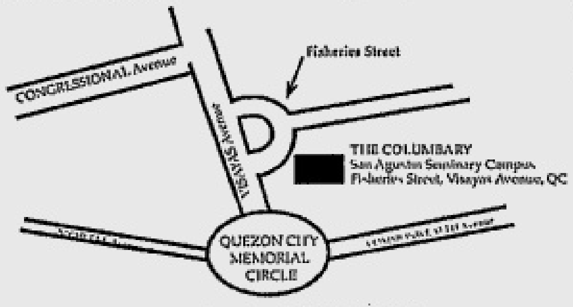
THE COLUMBARY is a modern day depository of cremated remains. Owned and maintained by the Fathers of the Order of St. Agustine and developed by the REDOBLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, the Columbary is an innovative alternative for an expensive prevailing practice of a traditional burial.



The San Agustin Seminary Compound.

Found within a lush garden sanctuary in the heart of Quezon City, it is dedicated to providing a solemn retreat to remember, honor and pray for our dearly departed.

The South Wall of The Columbary.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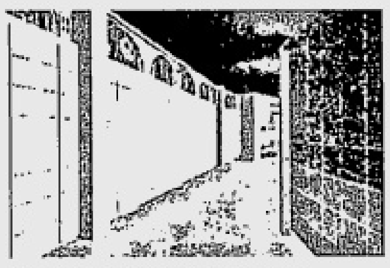
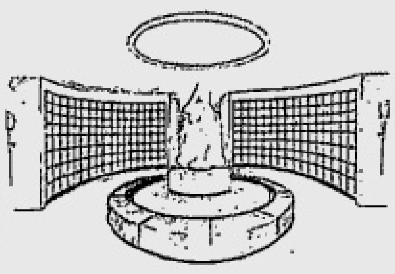
LOCATION MAP of THE COLUMBARY

At the heart of the Columbary is the Sanctuary. Spacious and well lit, it houses row upon row of sacred vaults, elegantly crafted with Italian pink granite, safekeeping the memories of our dearly departed. At the core of the Sanctuary is a remarkable sculpture of the Consoling Lady by National Artist Napoleon Abueva. The Columbary is a most fitting final resting place.



The Pasilio a prime location of The Columbary's *Sanctuary.*



The Consoling Lady by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

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Alfredo A. Francisco

(Fred Montilla)

Actor, Public Servant, 5-Term Councilor of Quezon City

peacefully joined his Creator on 5 December 2003.

His beloved wife, **Socorro (†)**; children **Toots & Jiggy, Panggoy & Beth, Tata & Len, Neneng** and **Nonoy (†)**; brother **Rudy** & his wife **Inday**; grandchildren **Jay Jay & Adi, Cristina, Aaron, Paola, Bianca, Marko** and **Avram**; sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Q.C. until Monday, 8 December. On Tuesday, 9 December, he will be transferred to the Quezon City Hall, where Necrological Rites will be held at 4:00 PM. The funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, 10 December at 9:00 AM, also at the Quezon City Hall, after which cremation will follow at Funeraria Paz.

OUR BELOVED

ROLAND OLIVARES PAULINO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on November 2, 2003 at the age of 40
in Los Angeles, California U.S.A.

His loving parents DING & ANNIE;
His brother and sister-in-law RICKY & TEYA;
His sisters and brothers-in-law
ANNA & GERRY SUVA,
MINA & CARLO FERNANDEZ,
RICHIE & FRANK VICENTE,
GINA & KEITH HERB;
and his nephews LUIS PAULINO,
CARLITOS & NICOLO FERNANDEZ

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. He was laid to rest last Nov. 8, 2003 in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.

There will be a MASS for his 40th day on Dec. 12, 2003, Friday, 6:30 p.m. at the Barangay Hall Chapel, Moonlight Loop St., Blue Ridge B, Quezon City.

BRIG. GEN. JONAS AQUINO VICTORIA, AFP (Ret.)

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 5, 2003 at the age of 90.

His beloved wife **ADÉ**; children **LEE, HELLEN** and **LILLIBETH**; grandchildren **JIA, NAGGI** and **DENISE**; brothers **JOSÉ** and **GABRIEL**; sister-in-law **NENA**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Chapel I, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

PACIENCIA DIMARANAN UYCHUTIN

May 1, 1924 - December 5, 2003

joined her Creator and her loving husband Atty. Luis T. Uychutin.

Her children **Voltaire, Theodore** and **Melinda Hermano, Marisa** and **Pedro Rovillos Jr.** and **Winston**; siblings **Lydia** and **Benjamin Gozun Sr., Erlinda** and **Ralph Taguba Sr., Lauro** and **Zenaida Dimaranan**, and **Jose Jr.** and **Zenaida Dimaranan**; her grandchildren **Randy, Brian, Luis Angelo, Mark Jason, Michelle** and **Meryl** and relatives kindly request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in her residence at Rizal Street, Cabuyao, Laguna.

Interment will be on December 9, 2003 at the Cabuyao Municipal Cemetery after a 1:00 p.m. Mass.

On the Death Anniversary

of our Beloved

CESAR CHANGCO y GONZALES

Dec. 09, 1984

ADELLA CACAS y GONZALES

Dec. 12, 1994

LEONOR CHANGCO y GONZALES

Dec. 23, 1990

Holy Masses will be offered at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Plaza Rizal, Pasay City.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Maria Roberta Estrella "STAR" Pareja Montaño

who passed away on Nov. 16, 2003

wish to convey our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in many immeasurable ways joined us during our deepest hours of sorrow.

God

THE SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND
MY OWN PERSONAL SAVIOR
MY FATHER TOO.
I LIFT ALL MY HAPPINESS
TO THE LORD, OUR GOD
AND HE LISTENS LIKE A FRIEND
A TRUE FRIEND
THAT'S WHY ALL MY TRUST
ALL MY FAITH I HAVE IN
THE LORD, OUR GOD

—STAR

Our Dearly Beloved

NATIVIDAD ABARQUEZ - DARVIN

Joined her Creator
on December 5, 2003
at the age of 90.

Her loving children **Linda & Florencio, Letty & Ponching, Basilio, Jr. & Rosita**, grandchildren and relatives mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

" And .... I will dwell in the
house of the Lord ... Forever."
Psalm 23

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance for NAPOCOR/PSALM/TRANSCO'S Industrial All-Risks Insurance Policy)

In view of the failure of the first bidding held on November 24, 2003, for this purpose, the DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee (JBC), thru its Eligibility and Evaluation Group (EEG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the renewal of reinsurance for the National Power Corporation's Industrial All Risks Insurance Policy, with an indicative budget of US$12.0 Million – US$14.7 Million, all inclusive, for the period 12:00 noon of January 31, 2004 to 12:00 noon of January 31, 2005.

	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
Issuance of Eligibility And Bidding Documents	December 16,2003- January 5, 2004 9:00 AM-5:00 PM JBC Secretariat 7th Floor, EDPC Bldg. BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila
Pre-Bid Conference	December 22, 2003, 9:00 AM Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila
Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes	January 6, 2004, 2:00 pm. Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila

For applicant-foreign reinsurers and applicant-brokers with foreign lead reinsurers, the foreign reinsurer must have a credit rating of at least "A" from a reputable rating agency as of June 2003, and certify that it will provide a lead line of at least 20% of the reinsured risk. Domestic and foreign lead reinsurers must have a net worth of at least Php2.0 Billion as of December 31, 2002.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to new applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$500.00 to the National Power Corporation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The JBC and the EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which it deems responsive and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PORFIRIO B. VILLENA JR.**
Director IV, PDMSG
Presiding Officer, Eligibility and Evaluation Group
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

Inquirer---Dec. 7, 8, 13 & 14, 2003

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) invites interested investors for the:

"PRIVATIZATION OF THE FORMER MIMOSA RESORT ESTATE"

The privatization project intends to seek investors and/or locators who will operate the existing facilities; and improvements thereof, of the multi-million former Mimosa Resort Estate and further develop it into a prime tourist and recreational destinaton in Central Luzon for a period of 25 years.

Interested parties may submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and eligibility not later than **December 29, 2003** (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at the Office of Vice President for Finance, Bldg. 2121 E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ, Pampanga. Proponents are required to submit the LOI, along with the following requirements:

a) Three (3) years audited financial statements (2000, 2001 & 2002)
b) List of major projects funded and/or operated (with full description); and
c) Bank certification as to proponent's capability to fund US$50 million project.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be issued to the prospective bidder upon submission of the LOI and required documents, and payment of a non-refundable fee of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00). Issuance of the TOR shall commence on December 08 to 20, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

Only those who are qualified for the said project shall be invited and notified for the schedule of pre-bid and bidding conferences.

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications or bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, informality and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government, nor does CDC guarantee that an award will be made.

A pre-bid conference may be held upon request of the proponent. Submission and opening of offers/bids shall be on January 15, 2004.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

MIMOSA PRIVATIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o DIR. BENIGNO N. RICAFORT
Clark Development Corporation
Bldg. 2121, E. Quirino Avenue,
Clark Field, Pampanga

(PDI - Dec. 6 & 7, 2003)

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OBITUARIES

Our Beloved

Jose P. Lardizabal

of Sariaya, Quezon and Cebu City

Peacefully joined the Lord and was reunited with his beloved wife, Sally on December 5, 2003 at the age of 71.

His loving children and children-in-law, **Lorna** and **Erik Dietz**, **Noemi** and **Luis Dado**, **Oscar Lardizabal** (†), **Myrna** and **Manuel de Vera Jr.**, **Ruben Lardizabal** (†), **Belen** and **Rodney Dofitas**, **David** and **Janet Lardizabal**, **Ma. Vida Pacturan**, **Isabelita Mangco**; sister **Paulina Lontoc**; brothers **Fermin** and **Florentino Lardizabal**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 3, St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati, Metro Manila until December 8 and will be transferred to the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Lahug, Cebu City on December 9. Interment is tentatively scheduled on Friday, December 12 at Cebu Memorial Park, Banilad, Cebu City.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Baby"

JOSHUA GABRIEL TAN TINITIGAN

(November 19, 2003 – December 05, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 05, 2003 at the age of 16 days.

His loving parents, **Atty. Joel G. Tinitigan** and **Graciela Ely Tan-Tinitigan**; grandparents **Severino** and **Maxima** (†), **Ricardo** and **Francisca**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

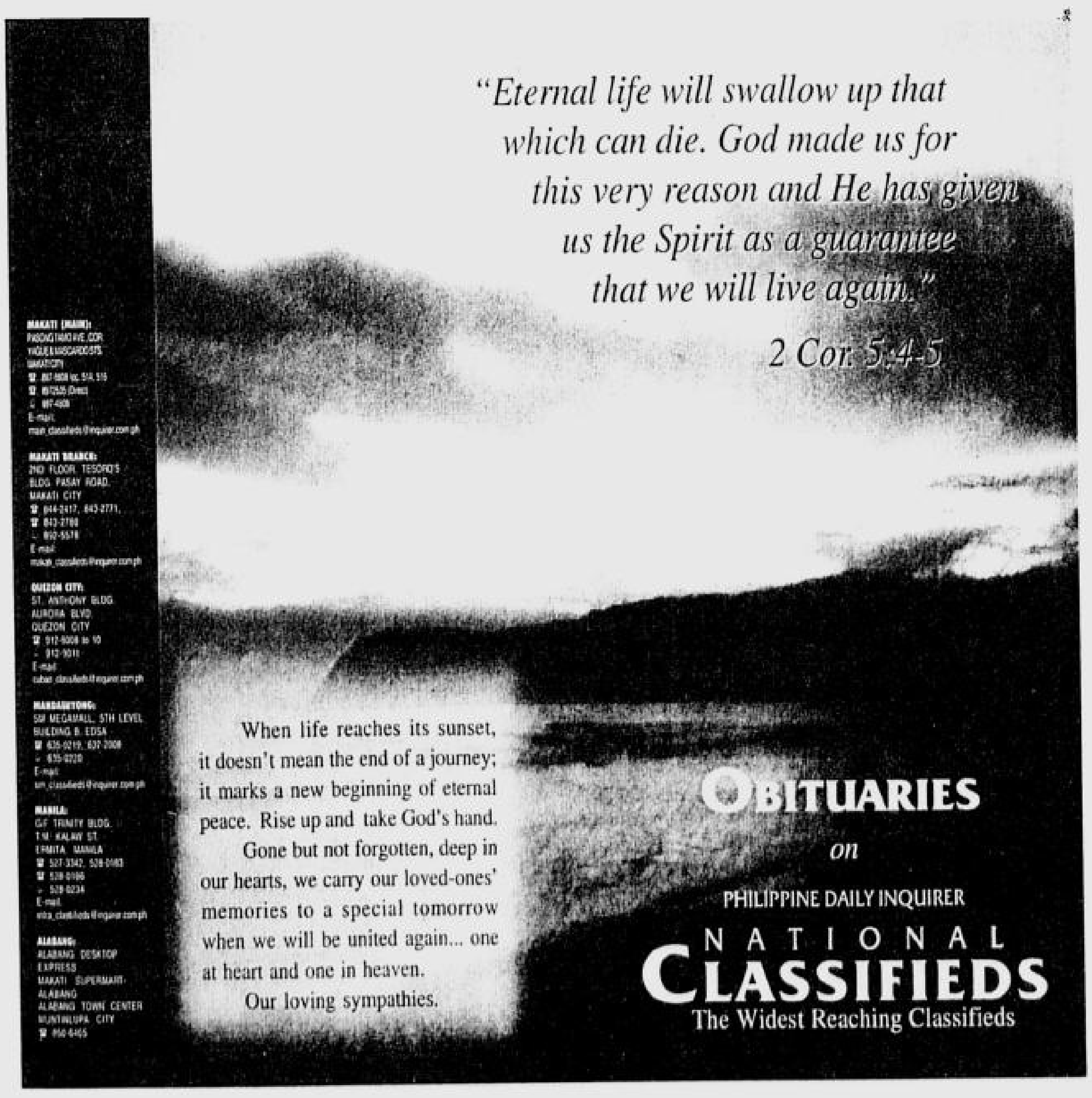
He was cremated on December 06, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Sixteenth Death Anniversary

of

JAIME V. ONGPIN

June 15, 1938 - December 7, 1987



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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11am, 3pm, 6pm

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Dec 19 & 20
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— Kirk Honeycutt, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"AN INSPIRING COMING OF AGE TALE"
BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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BALZAC
AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS

In China in the early 70's during the dark years of the "Cultural Revolution", Ma and Luo, two teenagers considered as "bourgeois intellectuals" by the system, are sent to the small village of Sichuan in order to be "reeducated" into contact with the population. In this sinister period where the majority of books are prohibited and weddings before the age of 25 are illegal, Ma and Luo will clandestinely discover literature and love at the same time.

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Eight CRAZY Nights

Adam Sandler invites you to share some holiday cheer in the new, no-holds-barred animated musical comedy

Eight CRAZY Nights
IT'S NAUGHTY. IT'S NICE. IT'S ANIMATED.
Featuring star voices from
Jon Lovitz and Rob Schneider.

When extremely disgruntled small-town guy Davey Stone (voiced by Sandler) faces another holiday season in his New England hometown, he does what he always has - he screws up big and lands in jail. Davey's old basketball referee, Whitey, bails him out with the bright idea of putting Davey to work doing community service. But Davey turns his sentence into a daily disaster for Whitey and the whole town! After a few surprises - including the mysterious reason for Davey's bad attitude and the reappearance of a childhood sweetheart - Davey might find a reason or two to change his ways.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
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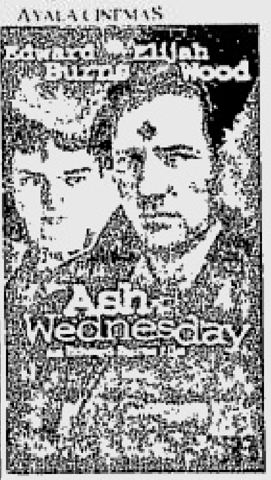
Edward Burns Elijah Wood
Ash Wednesday
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

Elijah Wood Edward Burns
Rosario Dawson Oliver Platt
Ash Wednesday

Hells Kitchen, Ash Wednesday, 1980. Sean Sullivan (Elijah Wood) is killed in a vendetta. Three years later, Seans brother Francis (Edward Burns) receives word that Sean may be alive. But the truth isnt always what it seems in this neighborhood, where violence and betrayal are the local currency.

"Suspenseful and ultimately unpredictable, with a sterling ensemble cast."
— Kevin Thomas, L.A. Times

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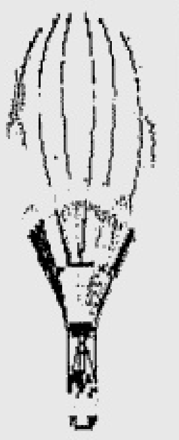
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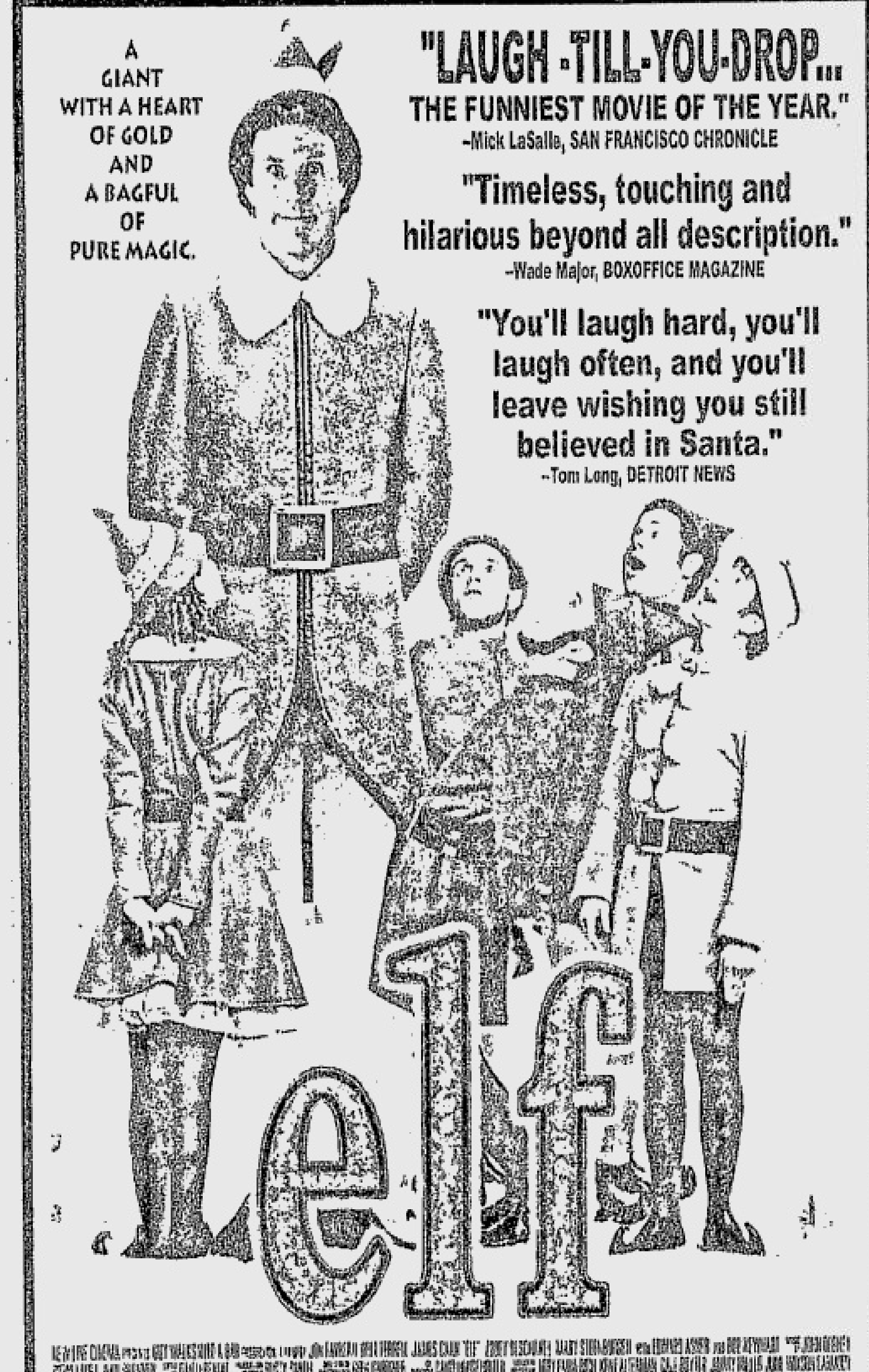
A GIANT WITH A HEART OF GOLD AND A BAGFUL OF PURE MAGIC.

"LAUGH-TILL-YOU-DROP... THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR."
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"You'll laugh hard, you'll laugh often, and you'll leave wishing you still believed in Santa."
-Tom Long, DETROIT NEWS

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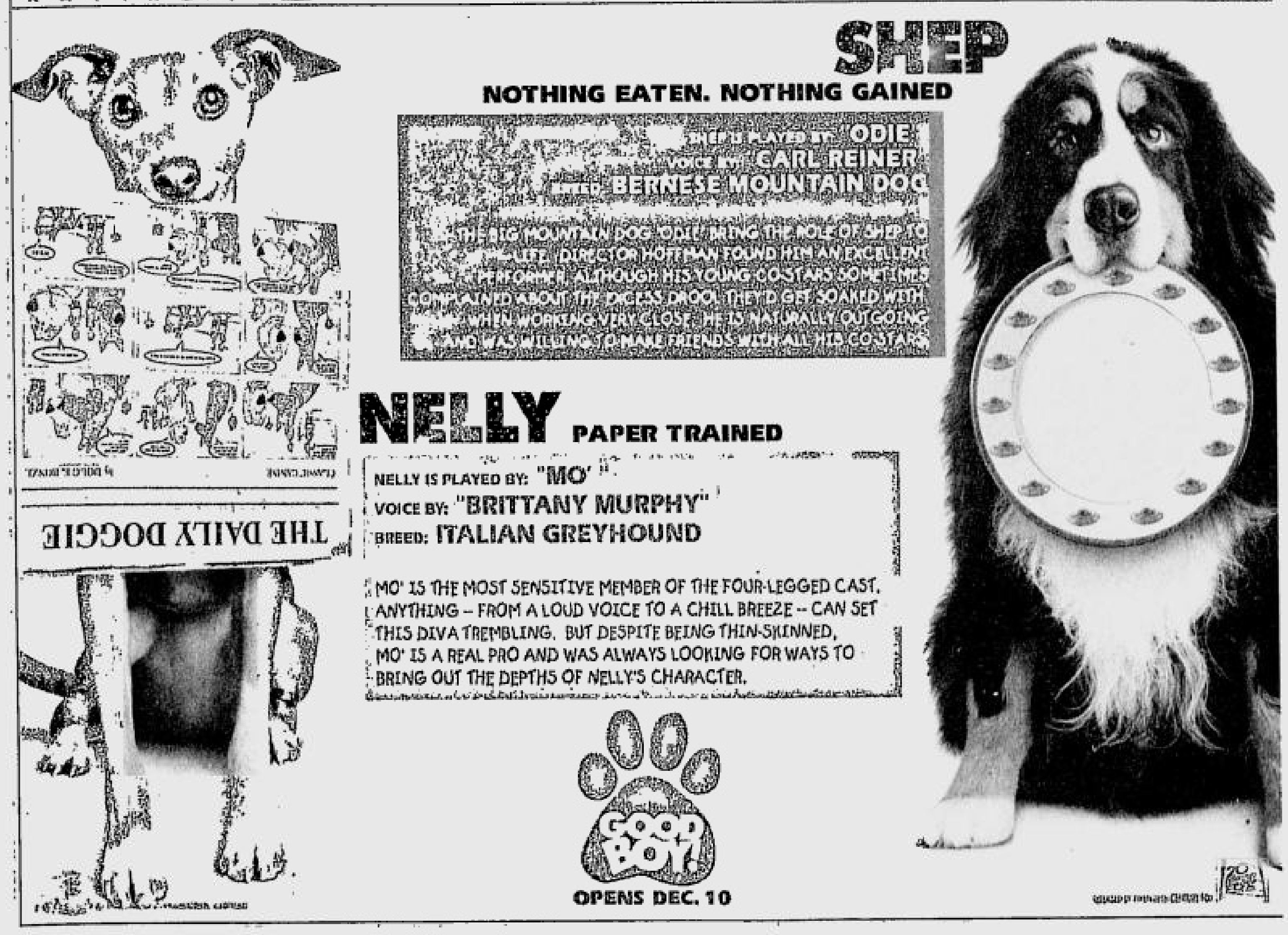
SHEP
NOTHING EATEN. NOTHING GAINED

SHEP IS PLAYED BY: "ODIE"
VOICE BY: "CARL REINER"
BREED: BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

THE BIG MOUNTAIN DOG 'ODIE' BRING THE ROLE OF SHEP TO LIFE. DIRECTOR HOFFMAN FOUND HIM AN EXCELLENT PERFORMER. ALTHOUGH HIS YOUNG COSTARS SOMETIMES COMPLAINED ABOUT THE EXCESS DROOL THEY'D GET SOAKED WITH WHEN WORKING VERY CLOSE. HE IS NATURALLY OUTGOING AND WAS WILLING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ALL HIS COSTARS.

NELLY PAPER TRAINED

NELLY IS PLAYED BY: "MO'"
VOICE BY: "BRITTANY MURPHY"
BREED: ITALIAN GREYHOUND

MO' IS THE MOST SENSITIVE MEMBER OF THE FOUR-LEGGED CAST. ANYTHING -- FROM A LOUD VOICE TO A CHILL BREEZE -- CAN SET THIS DIVA TREMBLING. BUT DESPITE BEING THIN-SKINNED, MO' IS A REAL PRO AND WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BRING OUT THE DEPTHS OF NELLY'S CHARACTER.

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OPENS DEC. 10
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1 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
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2 ELF
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2 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
5 STAR RUNNER 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 FIGHTING TEMPTATION 11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
6 THE GRUDGE 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
7 BABAE SA BREAKWATER 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55
9 SCARY MOVIE 3 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
8 LOONEY TUNES 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
10 COLD CREEK MANOR 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

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1 STAR RUNNER - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
2 THE GRUDGE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 FIGHTING TEMPTATION - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 OUT OF TIME - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY - 10:10, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 10:00
7 JEEPERS CREEPERS - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00, 10:00

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682-8280

1 SCARY MOVIE 3
2 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
3 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
4 OUT OF TIME
5 JEEPERS CREEPERS
6 STAR RUNNER
7 FIGHTING TEMPTATION
8 LOONEY TUNES

Novaliches
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1 LOONEY TUNES
2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 OUT OF TIME
4 FIGHTING TEMPTATION
5 SCARY MOVIE 3
6 JEEPERS CREEPERS
7 STAR RUNNER
8 BABAE SA BREAKWATER

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MR. SUAVE	1	OUT OF TIME
BABAE SA BREAKWATER	2	STAR RUNNER
STAR RUNNER	3	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
OUT OF TIME	4	JEEPERS CREEPERS

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LOONEY TUNES	2	LOONEY TUNES
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LOONEY TUNES	1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
SEX SCANDAL	2	OUT OF TIME
MR. SUAVE	3	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS	4	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS
JEEPERS CREEPERS	5	STAR RUNNER
SCARY MOVIE 3	6	BABAE SA BREAKWATER

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LOONEY TUNES	2	UPTOWN GIRLS
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GIGLI	4	LOONEY TUNES
LIBERATED	5	MR. SUAVE
BELPHEGOR	6	THE PHONE

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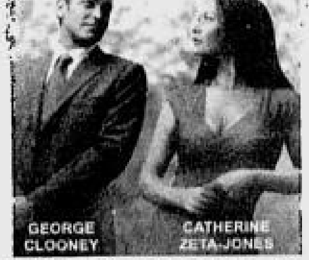

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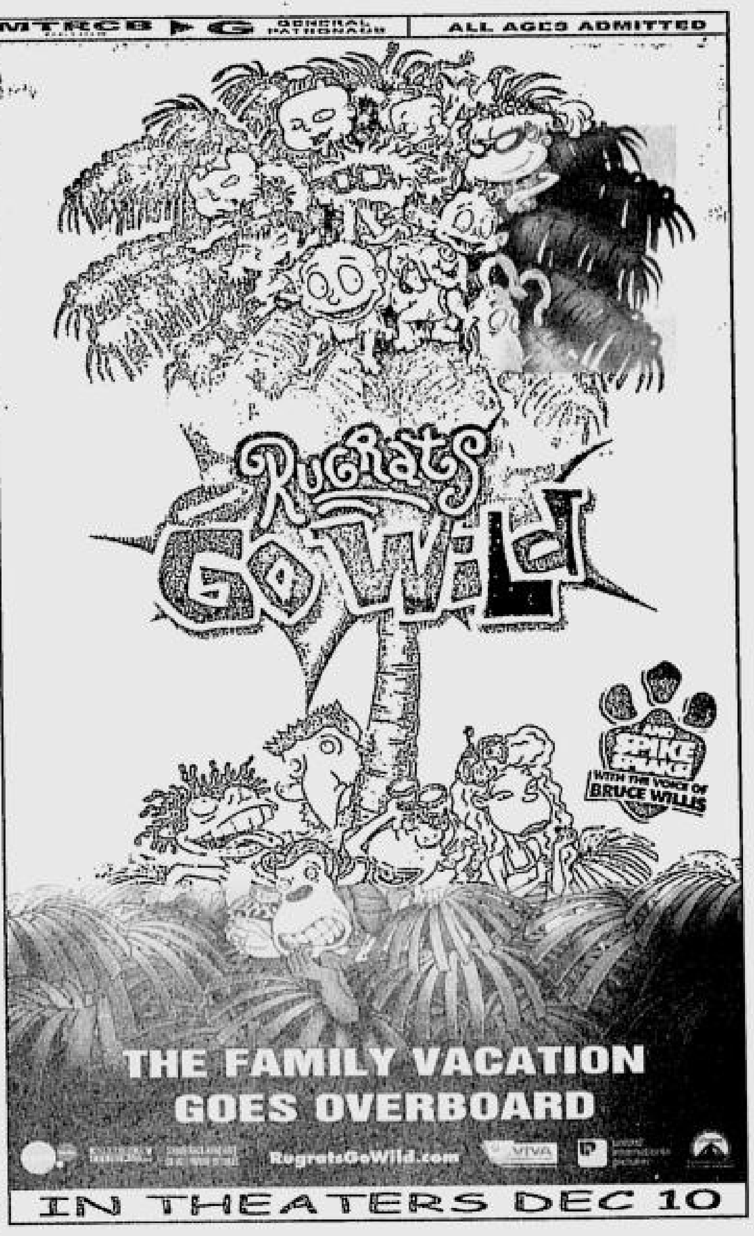
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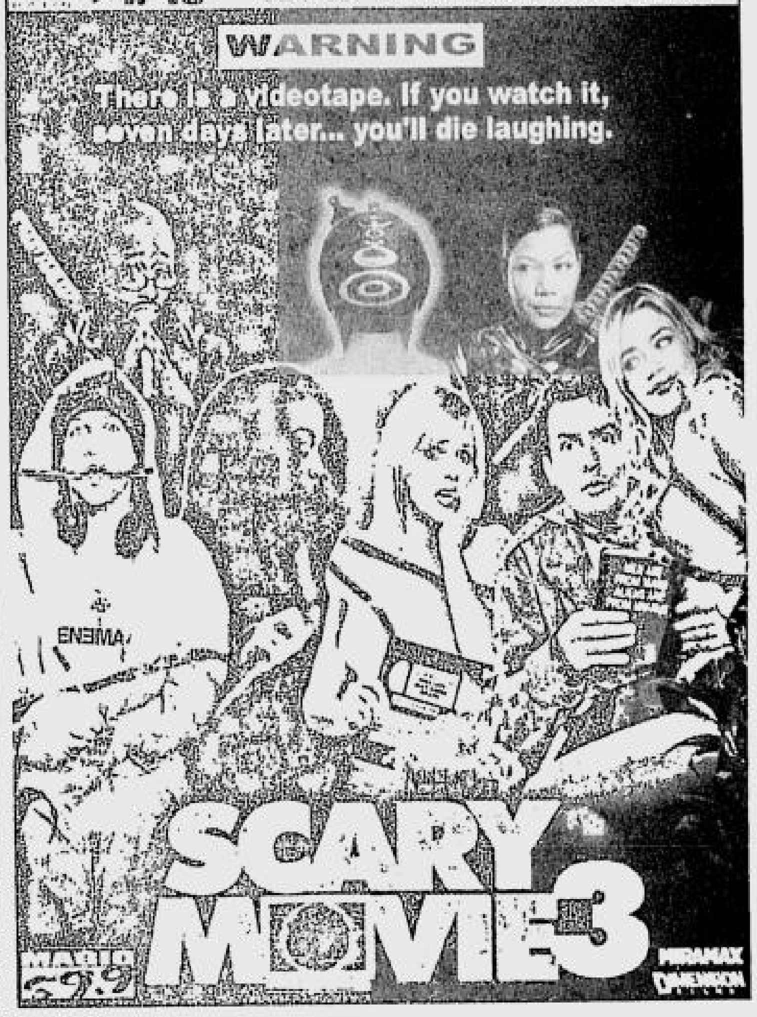
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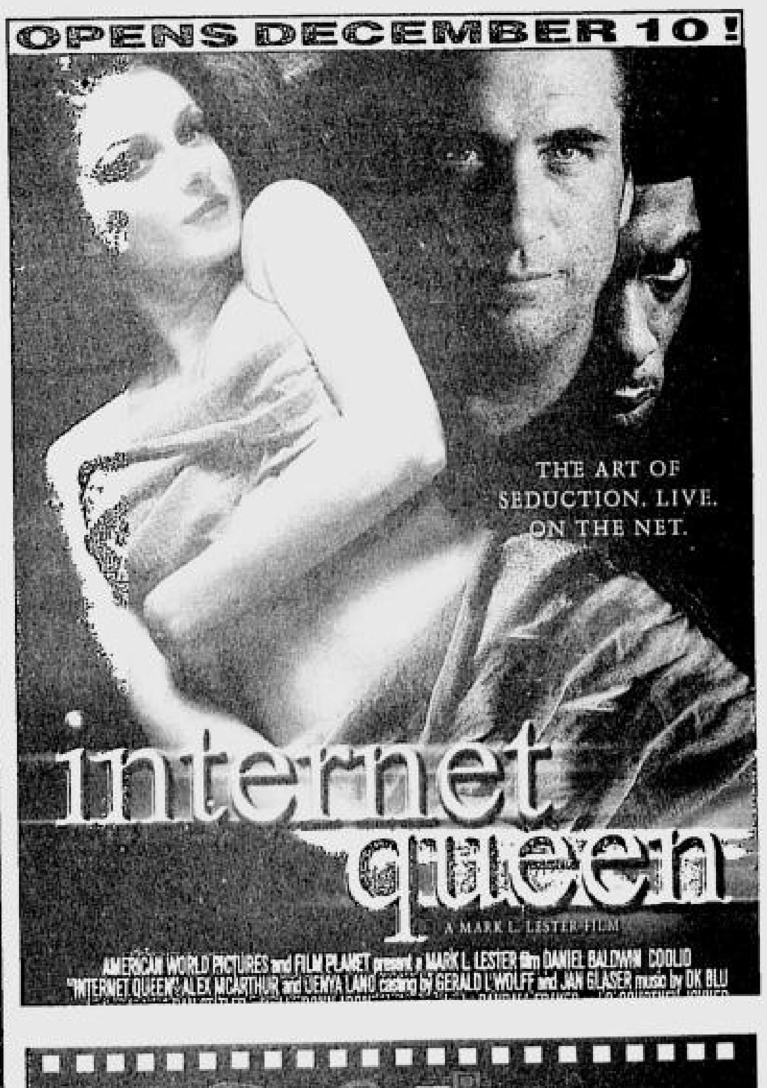
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JEEPERS CREEPERS R13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20

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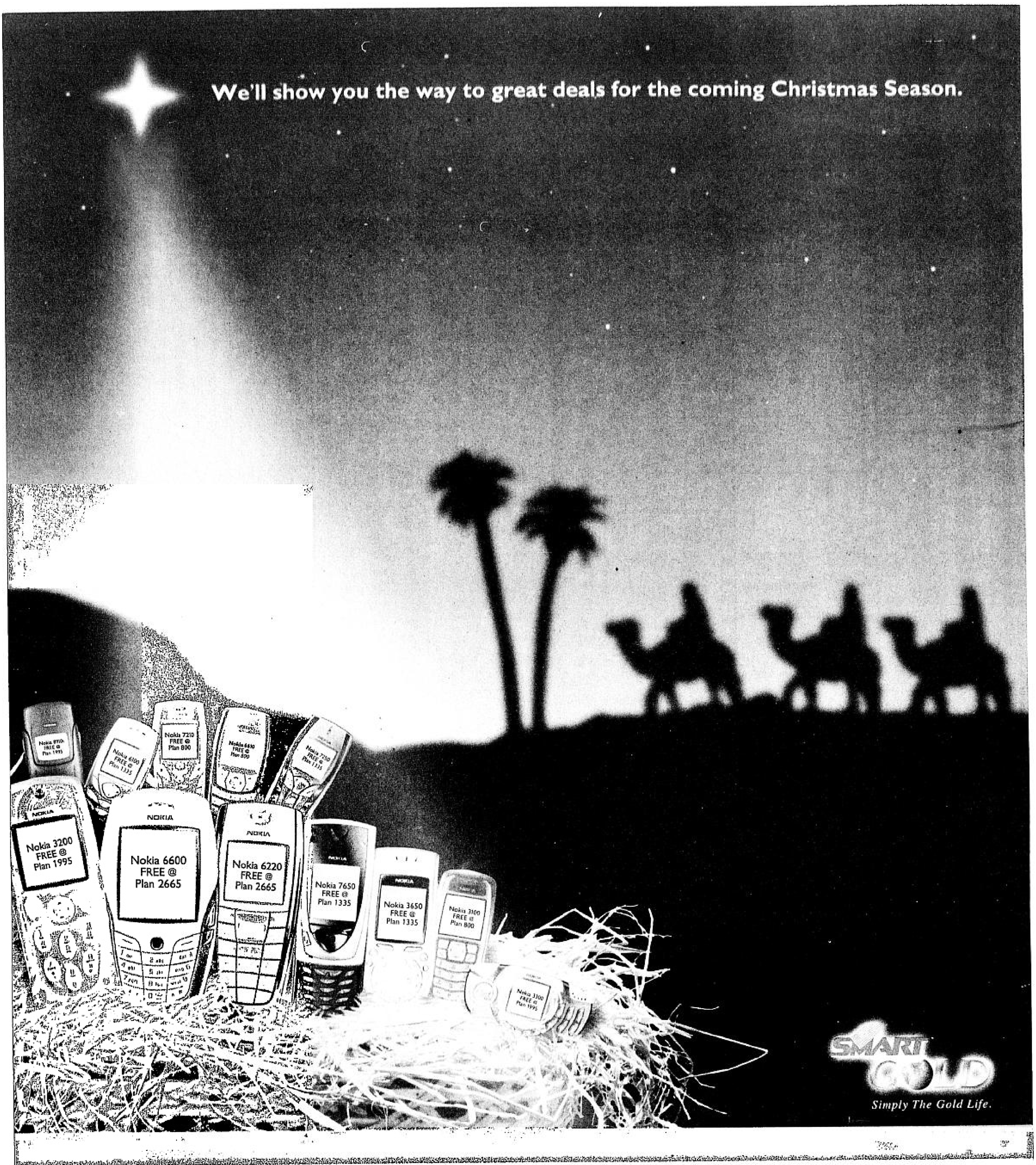
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Month Day Year
Mother's Maiden Name:______________________________
Name of Spouse:______________________________
Spouse's Business Address:______________________________
Contact No. of Spouse:______________________________

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Office/Company Name:______________________________
Position In Company:______________________________
Office/Company Address:______________________________
No. Street Barangay
______________________________ Office/Company Tel. No.:______________
City ZIP code

I affirm that the given information is true and correct and hereby authorize SMART Communications, Inc. to verify such information from whatever sources it may consider appropriate. I understand that I may be requested to submit additional requirements to facilitate the processing of this application. I also authorize SMART Communications, Inc. to charge the advanced Monthly Service Fee to my credit card.

Accomplish this form and fax it to (02) 511-2213 up to 2214 for Metro Manila; (032) 232-3014 for Metro Cebu; (082) 224-5782 for Metro Davao together with a photocopy of your credit card showing both sides and a copy of your valid ID with photo and signature. Areas covered in Metro Cebu: Cebu City, Talisay City, Lapu-Lapu City, and Mandaue City. In Metro Davao: Tibungco to Toril.

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Type: ☐ Gold ☐ Silver Card Issuer Bank:______________
Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry Date ☐☐ ☐☐ Last 3 digits at the back of the credit card ☐☐☐
Month Year
Credit Card Billing Address: ☐ Home ☐ Office
☐ Others______________

☐ I would like to avail of a Nokia _____ under ☐ Plan 800 ☐ Plan 1335 and will enroll my account under the Auto Debit Agreement (ADA) and have my monthly bills charged to my credit card.
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Deliver my phone for FREE to: ☐ Home Address ☐ Office Address
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT. The "Flower Drum Song" Broadway cast album, which includes Lea and co-star Jose Llana, is nominated for best musical show album.

Lea album nominated for a Grammy

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

IN THE thick of preparations for her wedding in Los Angeles in January 2004, Lea Salonga received an early Christmas gift: The Broadway cast album of "Flower Drum Song," which is led by her, has been nominated for best musical show album in the 46th Grammy Awards.

Lea shared the news through e-mail and said, "Now, that's a Merry Christmas."

Lea's name appears on the Grammy website (www.grammy.com), which carries the complete list of the 46th Grammy Awards nominees.

The 46th Grammy nominations are dominated by rap and R&B artists. The nominees were announced Thursday afternoon (early Friday morning in Manila) at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. It was

LEA/ C2

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NEW IMPROVED Swift Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdogs
Mas mababa ang presyo kaysa sa leading brand!
Manamis-namis at Ma-Juice!
RFM We love kids

Lea album nominated for a Grammy

From page C1

attended by national and international media, as well as top music industry executives.

Lea starred in "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway from October 2002 to March 2003, and is also in the musical's soundtrack album.

Also nominated for best musical show album were Billy Joel's "Movin' Out" (with Michael Cavanaugh) from Sony Classical, "Nine" (starring Antonio Banderas and Chita Rivera) from PS Classics, Stephen Sondheim's "Gypsy" (starring Bernadette Peters, Tammy Blanchard and John Dossett) from Angel Records, and "Man of La Mancha" (starring Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Ernie Sabella) from RCA Victor.

The award, however, will honor the album producer, lyricist and composer. The Broadway cast recording of "Flower Drum Song" is produced by Hugh Fordin for DRG Records. Music was by the late Richard Rodgers and lyrics were by the late Oscar Hammerstein II.

The complete list of nominees in this year's Grammy Awards can be seen at grammy.com website. The awards will be given in 30 fields, with a total of 105 categories. The awards night will be on Feb. 8, 2004 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

BMG Records

In "Flower Drum Song," Lea played Mei-Li, a young girl from Communist China who finds her way to San Francisco's Chinatown in the 1950s. Lea recorded the numbers "I Am Going to Like It Here," "A Hundred Million Miracles," "You Are Beautiful" which is a duet with Jose Llana, and "Love Look Away."

The album is distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas, Lea's recording label for seven years now.

The new version of "Flower Drum Song" was first staged at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in October 2001. In the musical Lea was paired with Jose Llana, a Fil-Am actor who played the romantic hero Ta. Jose also played Angel in Broadway's "Rent," Jessie-Lee in "Streetcorner Symphony," Lun Tha in "The King and I" and Guillaume in Cameron Mackintosh's tour of "Martin Guerre."

Lea and Jose reprised their "Flower Drum Song" roles on Broadway last year, at the Virginia Theater on West 52nd Street. They also recorded the Broadway cast album last year.

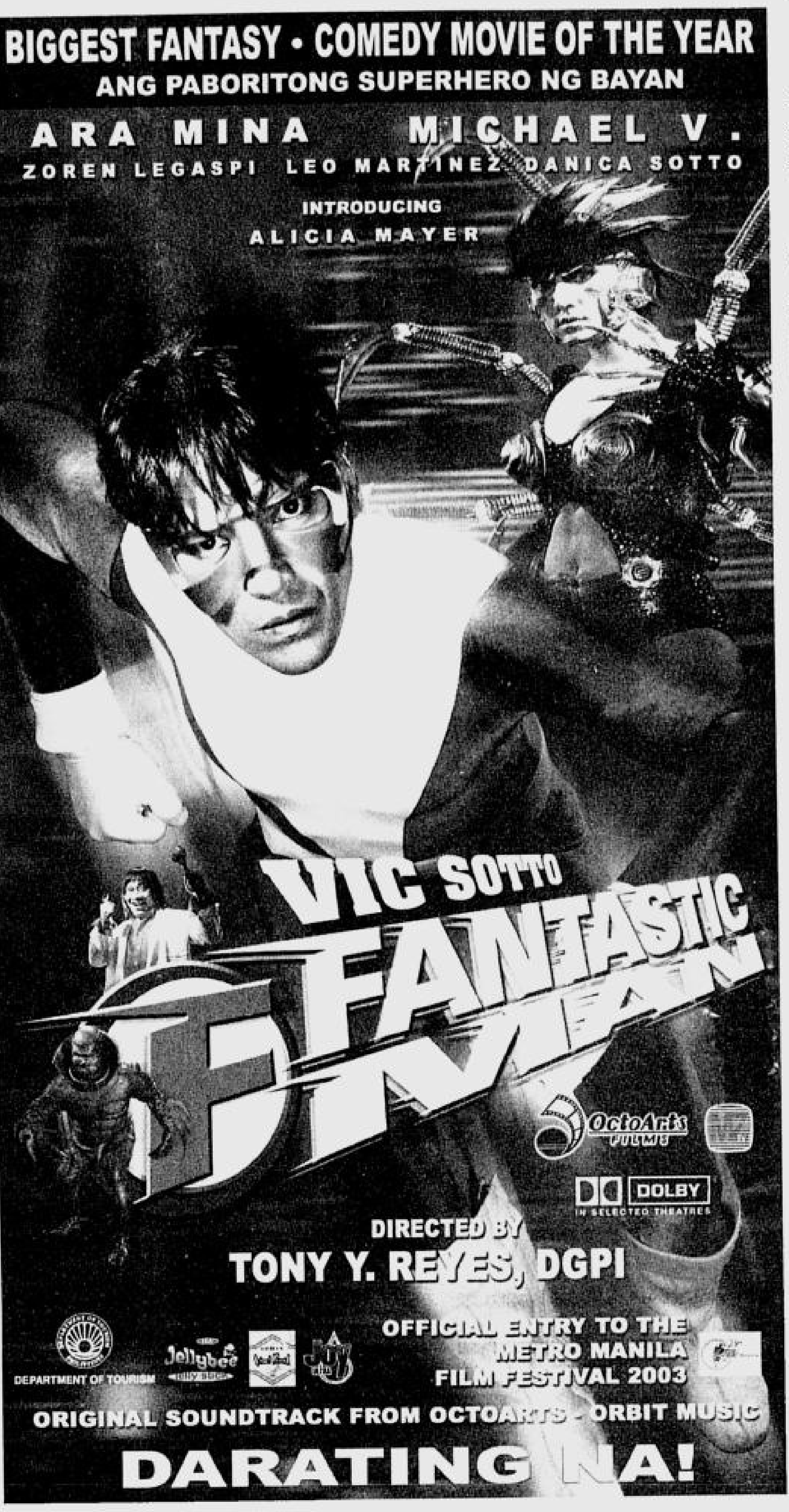
The musical, based on the novel by C.Y. Lee, was given a new book by award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang.

Tony, Olivier

Lea was the very first Kim in the West End production of "Miss Saigon," a role which she played again on Broadway. Her other international theater recordings include the original soundtrack of "Miss Saigon," and the 10th anniversary concert of "Les Miserables" at the Royal Albert Hall in London, where she played Eponine and sang "On My Own."

Lea won the Tony Award as best actress for "Miss Saigon," which also brought her the Sir Lawrence

LEA/C4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MAQ Productions Inc., An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival

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RICKY DAVAO WOWIE DE GUZMAN ANNA CAPRI NIKKI VALDEZ AND MS. BARBARA PEREZ
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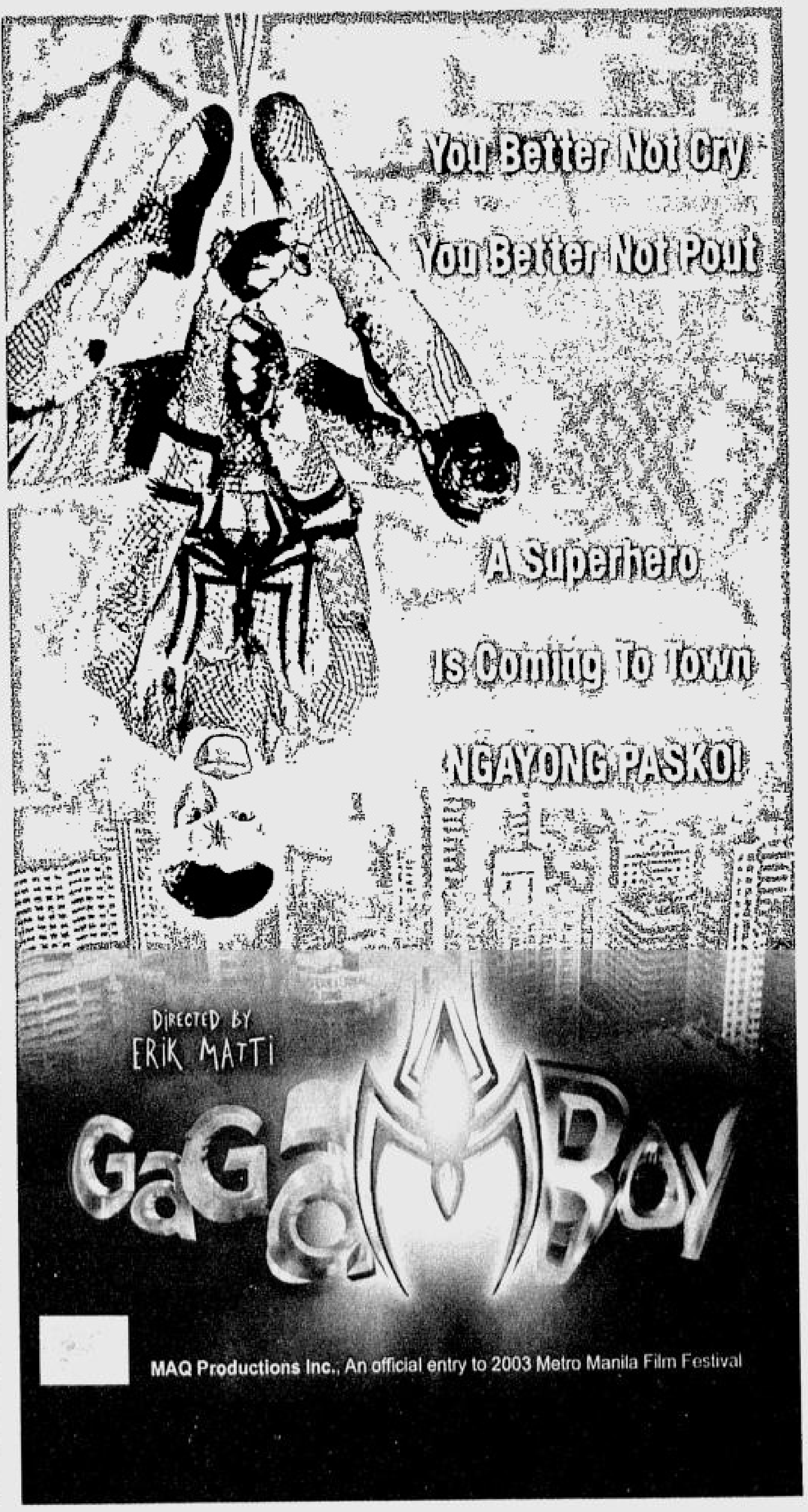
HANDA KA NA BANG MATAKOT?
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM OCTOARTS-ORBIT MUSIC
DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES, DGPI
AN OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL PHILIPPINES 2003
CANARY FILMS PRESENTATION
DOLBY IN SELECTED THEATRES
Distributed by: OctoArts Films
MALAPIT NA !


You Better Not Cry
You Better Not Pout
A Superhero
Is Coming To Town
NGAYONG PASKO!
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MAQ Productions Inc., An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival

Significant turnaround

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN ITS four years on the tube, "Digital LG Quiz" has inspired and challenged many high school students to take their studies more seriously. As conceptualized by director **Pat Perez**, Channel 7's Sunday-morning quiz show has captivated young viewers with its lively, technology-oriented format and treatment.

Now, as it starts its fifth year on TV, "Digital LG Quiz" has been reformatted into the new "Digital LG Challenge," to make the show even more dynamic and challenging to a greater number of contestants.

The new quiz show has 50 students competing weekly, a total of 2,600 players for the entire telecasting year. The interactive program now also showcases the best cheerleaders of different schools in the country.

Also new is quizmaster **Paolo Bediones**' female counterpart, Pia Guanio, replacing **Regine Tolentino** whose career is taking on a more entertaiment-oriented configuration.

We have been viewing "Digital LG Quiz" through the years, and even served as a judge of one of the components of its grand finals competition last year. So, we intend to view the new "Digital LG Challenge," to see if the program's changes will indeed result in a more dynamic, viewable, exciting and youth-inspiring show.

It's true that good things shouldn't be tinkered with all that much ("If it ain't broke, don't fix it"), but it's also a fact that young viewers have a relatively short attention span, so if the adjusted format clicks with them, that's all to the good.

What we trust won't change will be the quiz program's commitment to making learning and excelling "in" for the country's youth. All too often in the past, studious teenagers were dismissed as "nerds," "bookworms" and "wallflowers" who weren't part of the exciting teen scene.

"Digital LG Quiz" has helped change all that, and standout high school students are now admired and looked up to. This is an important contribution, because young people are the nation's "capital" for a progressive tomorrow.

If the next generation has its head screwed on straight and regards learning as something fun, exciting and important, the country can look forward to a bright, purposeful future.

This more positive attitude can also counteract the negative influence of drugs, juvenile delinquency, excessive interest in sex, indolence, obsession with celebrities and gossip, and shallow fascination with "love" that make some teens' lives so messy and directionless these days.

> We trust that 'Digital LG Challenge' will motivate and inspire the country's high school students to enjoy learning even more

It's really quite a revolutionary shift for disciplined and ambitious young learners to be as celebrated and admired as some teen media celebrities.

We congratulate "Digital LG Quiz" for helping achieve this significant turnaround, and trust that its version, "Digital LG Challenge," will motivate and inspire the country's high school students to enjoy learning even more.

UST Singers

THE MCO Arts Festival for 2003 closes with a pre-Christmas concert featuring the UST Singers at 4 p.m. today, Dec. 7, at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue. The programme includes pieces by **Mendelsohnn, Pearsall, Lauridsen, Federizon and Francisco Santiago.**

The UST Singers have gone on nine concert tours that have taken them to many countries. In 1995, they won the Choir of the World Grand Prize in Wales, the first and only Asian choir to attain the prestigious honor. Call the MCO Foundation at 818-1403.

'Cold Creek Manor'

CINEMA (Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation) evaluates the film "Cold Creek Manor" as average on point of technical assessment, and acceptable on point of moral assessment.

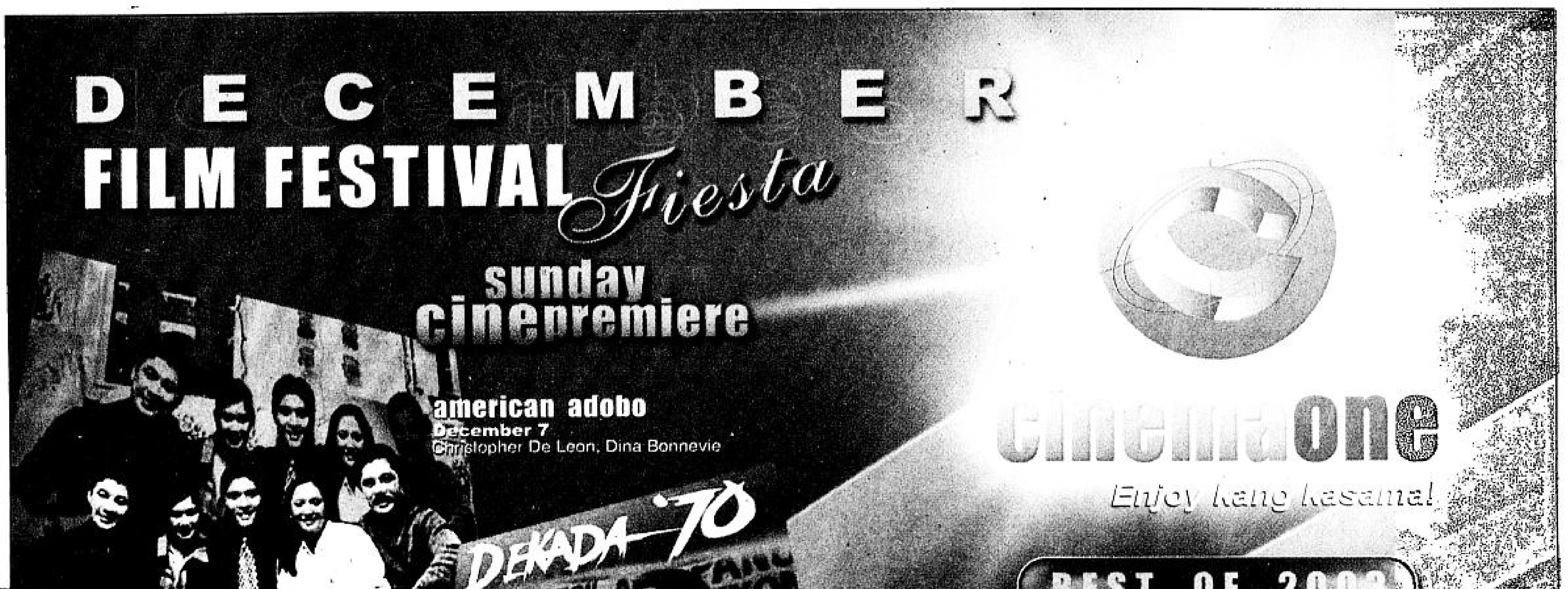
Dennis Quaid's character moves his family to a spacious farm. But their bucolic life is disturbed by scary things that happen, involving an ex-convict (**Stephen Dorff**) who works as their handyman. It turns out that the handyman is the property's previous owner, and is bent on driving the family out. For his part, Quaid discovers signs that something terribly evil has taken place on the property, and desperately searches for clues to confirm his suspicions.

Cinema notes that the movie has a longish introduction and some faulty characterizations. But the film's strong suit is its depiction of how the characters' horrible experience helps them affirm their love for each other.

A final cautionary note: "The nature of the film includes some violence, gore, sexual situations and inadequate language."

'Mad Mike & Mark'

ANIMAL Planet premieres its new wildlife adventure show, "Mad Mike & Mark," tonight at 8. Each week, the show takes viewers on a photographic safari that throws them into the heart of wild animal action. Leading the safari are "Mad" **Mike Penman** and **Mark Tennant**, two expert but unconventional safari guides and wildlife photographers.


DECEMBER
FILM FESTIVAL Fiesta
sunday cinepremiere
american adobo
December 7
Christopher De Leon, Dina Bonnevie
DEKADA '70
dekada '70
December 14
Vilma Santos, Christopher de Leon, Piolo Pascual
frida
December 21
Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina
Filipino Translation by Jose F. Lacaba
Voiced by Cherie Gil and Johnny Delgado
you and me against the world
December 28
Robin Padilla, Kris Aquino
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	10 am to 10 pm	Sat. & Sun.	₱500	9 pm
Dec. 15-19	10 am to 10 pm	Mon. to Fri.	₱500	
Dec. 20-Jan. 4	10 am to 12 mn	Mon. to Sun.	₱500	10 pm
Dec. 24 & 31	10 am to 7 pm	Wed.	₱500	7 pm

Other available tickets are Carousel Special at ₱100 and Wizard's Treat at ₱300. For inquiries, please call 8302111 to 16 or 8436073 to 78 or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

When show biz is a liability

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

It was just for the press, but where was the show biz press?

MAYBE, for show biz, it's payback?

Tito Sotto and **Helen Gamboa** told show biz friends, very nicely of course, not to bother showing up at the Manila Hotel that Nov. 26. Even those who would've gone anyway, like **Annabelle Rama**, because she wanted to see for herself ("*Mag-usyoso ba?*"), couldn't, for lack of time ("*Maglagay lang ako ng kilay, isang oras na, pagdating ko du'n, 'di tapos na!*"). They all just found out from radio and TV on the very morning of the day itself.

Tito, a show biz fellow but also a senator and FPJ's campaign manager, was going, but even Helen, his wife, wasn't.

The day was just for the press, the couple said.

But if so, where was the show biz press?

The Champagne Room was packed with print, wire, and broadcast regulars and stringers. One fellow from the wires texted: "*si ping at roco di namin pinuntahan, pero ito inabangan talaga namin. mas marami pang press kesa* supporters!" Obviously, for the media the day had buzz. Yet the show biz press, which had known FPJ the longest and had every reason to cover a big move by Da King of Philippine Movies, hadn't been invited.

And as if to make a point of showing that this positively wasn't about show biz, the press conference started on time. The press noticed. I believe FPJ wanted them to.

FPJ's campaign

The whole FPJ campaign, I wager, will go the same way: It will take pains to stand **Fernando Poe Jr.** apart from show biz.

A big reason will have to be Erap. The man rather ruined show biz for politics, and show biz is the one thing Erap has in common with FPJ.

Even Malacañang's **Rigoberto Tiglao**, in a phone conversation hours after FPJ announced he was running, made a case of saying you couldn't compare Erap to FPJ. His context being that you couldn't commute Erap's 1998 landslide victory to FPJ's chances in 2004, because Erap did have a whole history of government service then where FPJ has absolutely none now.

If that be right, it be right, too, to conclude that Erap was more politician than star by the time he became President. Which then kills the connection being made of his failure as President to his being show biz. And kills the argument that a movie star once ran, won, and botched it up, which is what everyone likes throwing at FPJ.

(Mind, I'm just following the dotted line.)

I expect, of course, that FPJ will tap his show biz friends when the campaign trail heats up and sorties and caravans are mounted. But since he is his own biggest crowd draw, he will not worry overmuch there. What he will worry about is projecting himself as a serious citizen and a worthy contender.

Translated, that means projecting himself as a non-show biz candidate.

And this, he has to do in the face of—a united opposition gone fractious on the issue of standard bearer, a business community burnt by the Erap experience, an A and B crowd recoiling instinctively from star forays into politics, and even a C, D, E crowd already said to be his for the taking.

FPJ is a proud man, after all. I don't figure him wooing the *masa* by selling himself as a star; I figure him selling himself as a leader.

Which brings me to this exact point: Because FPJ needs to be perceived as presidential timber, because he wants the electorate to accept him as a consultative leader open to all sectors, and because he means to be seen as capable of unifying an entire nation—he will keep show biz on the back burner.

Tito Sotto will not go around trumpeting FPJ's acting skills but his managerial acumen, not his box-office savvy but his feel for the common pulse, not his onscreen bigness of heart but his offscreen acts of generosity. The buzzwords will be "integrity" and "inspiration," and it won't hurt to tell the country FPJ has "no record of corruption."

Anything—so long as it does not invoke show biz.

Suddenly, show biz is the kiss of death. Or at least the skeleton in the closet nobody will talk about on the campaign. The kink in the armor. The Achilles heel. The iceberg in the Titanic's hull. The gay child in the Von Trapp family.

(Enough already.)

Show biz guilts

Question is: How did this come to pass?

And I'm afraid the answer is: Show biz did it to itself.

Sure, the outside world is full of itself—and its biases, snobberies, and bigotries against show biz. But never mind them. Show biz has to see itself for what it has become.

How to get respect?

TO GET respect, FPJ is shutting out show biz

LUIS LIWANAG/YES! MAGAZ

If show biz has an intellectual life, it doesn't show.

Indecent amounts of energy, not to mention money, flushed into flash and fluff and the beauty myth.

Actors don't talk about how they attack roles, they t about how they attack paramours.

Show biz TV conducts virginity tests on bold stars.

Show biz gayspeak is killing language.

Scandal is the shortcut to stardom.

False issues, false quarrels, false romances are hyped promote a film, a tandem, an event—stringing a payi audience along and addicting it for more.

A diminutive male is—quite seriously—passed off a diminutive female, for no reason other than that the s tion has been making money off him that way.

Only a very few stars bother with how the other h lives; everyone just wants to get rich.

Reporters, talk-show hosts, editors, columnists, a freelancers *are also* publicists, schedule masters, tal scouts, line producers, and talent managers.

As devastating as that is to journalism, it is more so *delicadeza*. Whenever a battle royale involves their war far from abstaining themselves from the issue, they ac ally engage it lustily.

A star badmouths a scribe for being cheap; the scri badmouths the star for being cheap.

Talent managers know their power and have be known to use it badly.

The rich life of the mind of film directors is not appre ated.

Scriptwriters, without whose ideas there is no film, a underpaid, undercredited, underpublicized.

Lesser stars are made to grovel for their postdat checks.

Show biz tattle can be very funny, but the tattle can d generate into a flinty meanness very fast.

All right, this is not the whole show biz picture—bu *is* a big part.

See how FPJ, to get respect, is shutting out show b Doesn't sound to me like an accident. Sounds more li payback.

Lea album nominated for a Grammy

From page C2

Olivier award in London. She has an Oscar for best song recording for singing Princess Jasmine's part in Disney's "Aladdin," where she did a duet of "A Whole New World" with Brad Kane.

"Flower Drum Song" the musical is close to Lea's heart because it was while doing the musical in LA that she met her fiancé, Robert Chien. They were introduced by Robert's cousin, Christine Yasunaga, who was part of the ensemble.

Lea and Robert will be married on Jan. 10, 2004 at the LA Cathedral. The wedding will be aired as a TV special on ABS-CBN, to be directed by Bobby Garcia.

Other nominees

Among the artists present in Thursday's announcement of the Grammy nominees were Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Dido, Evanescence's Amy Lee, Sarah McLachlan, Moby, Jason Mraz, Stacie Orrico, Brad Paisley and Pharrell Williams.

Beyoncé Knowles, Jay-Z, Outkast and Pharrell Williams earned six nominations each. Missy Elliott, Eminem, Evanescence, 50 Cent, Chad Hugo, Ricky Skaggs, Justin Timberlake, Luther Vandross and Warren Zevon have five nominations each.

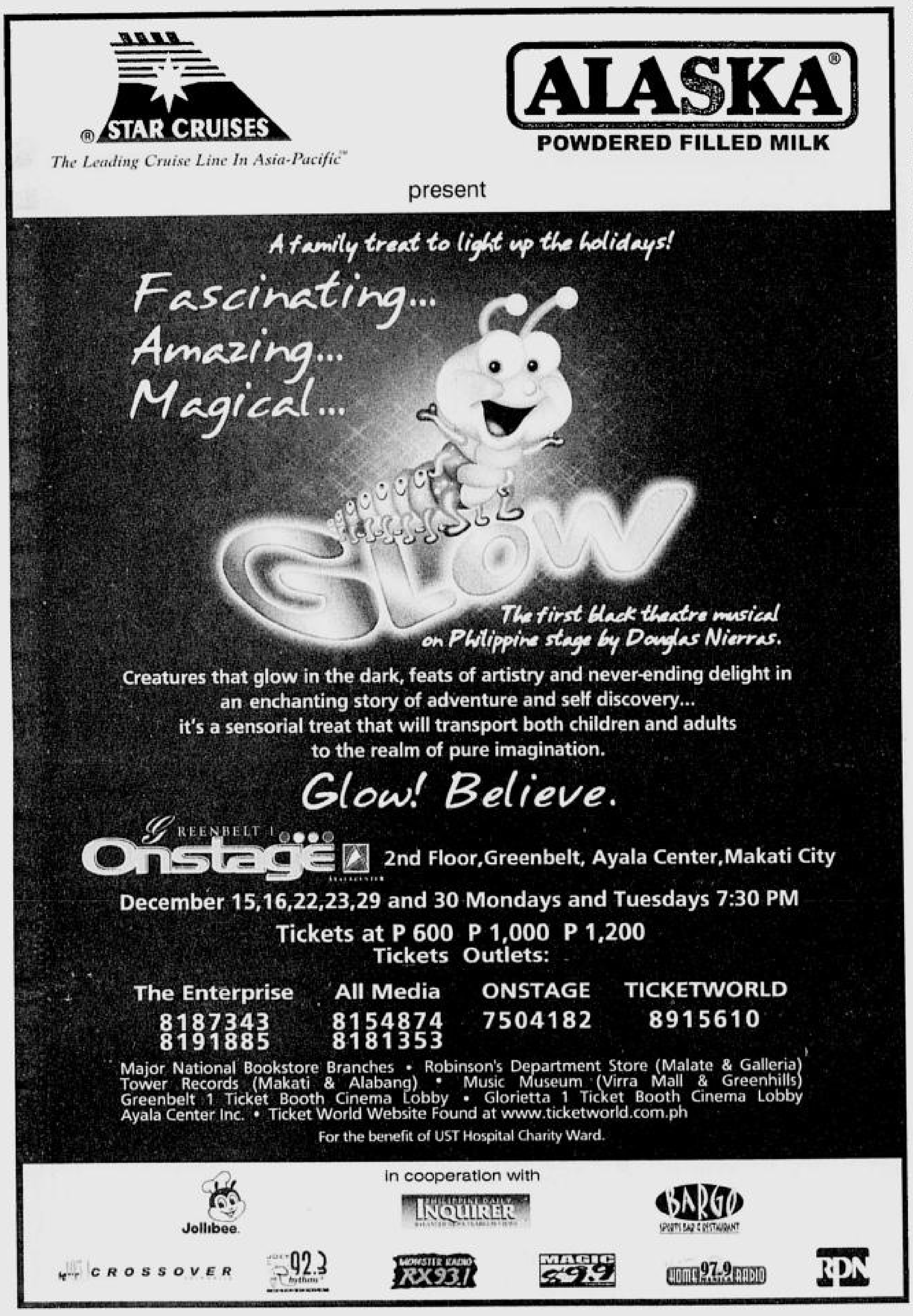
The nominees for album of the year are Missy Elliott ("Under Construction"), Evanescence ("Fallen"), Outkast ("Speakerbox/The Love Below"), Justin Timberlake ("Justified") and White Stripes ("Elephant").

The nominees for record of the year: "Crazy in Love" (Beyoncé Knowles featuring Jay-Z), "Where is the Love?" (Black Eyed Peas and Justin Timberlake), "Clocks" (Coldplay), "Lose Yourself" (Eminem) and "Hey Ya" (Outkast).

Former President Bill Clint and his wife, Senator Hilla Rodham Clinton, are both nom nated in the spoken word albu categories. Bill Clinton was cit for "Prokofiev: Peter and t Wolf/Beintus: Wolf Tracks," wi former Soviet leader Mikha Gorbachev and actress Soph Loren in the best spoken word a bum for children. Hillary Clint was nominated for best spok word album for "Living History

The Grammy nomination ba lots for the next round of votin will be mailed on Dec. 11 to th voting members of the Recordin Academy. They are due back the accounting firm of Delo and Touche by Jan. 7, 200 when they will be tabulated. T results will be kept secret un the telecast in February 200

(With details from www.gran my.com website)



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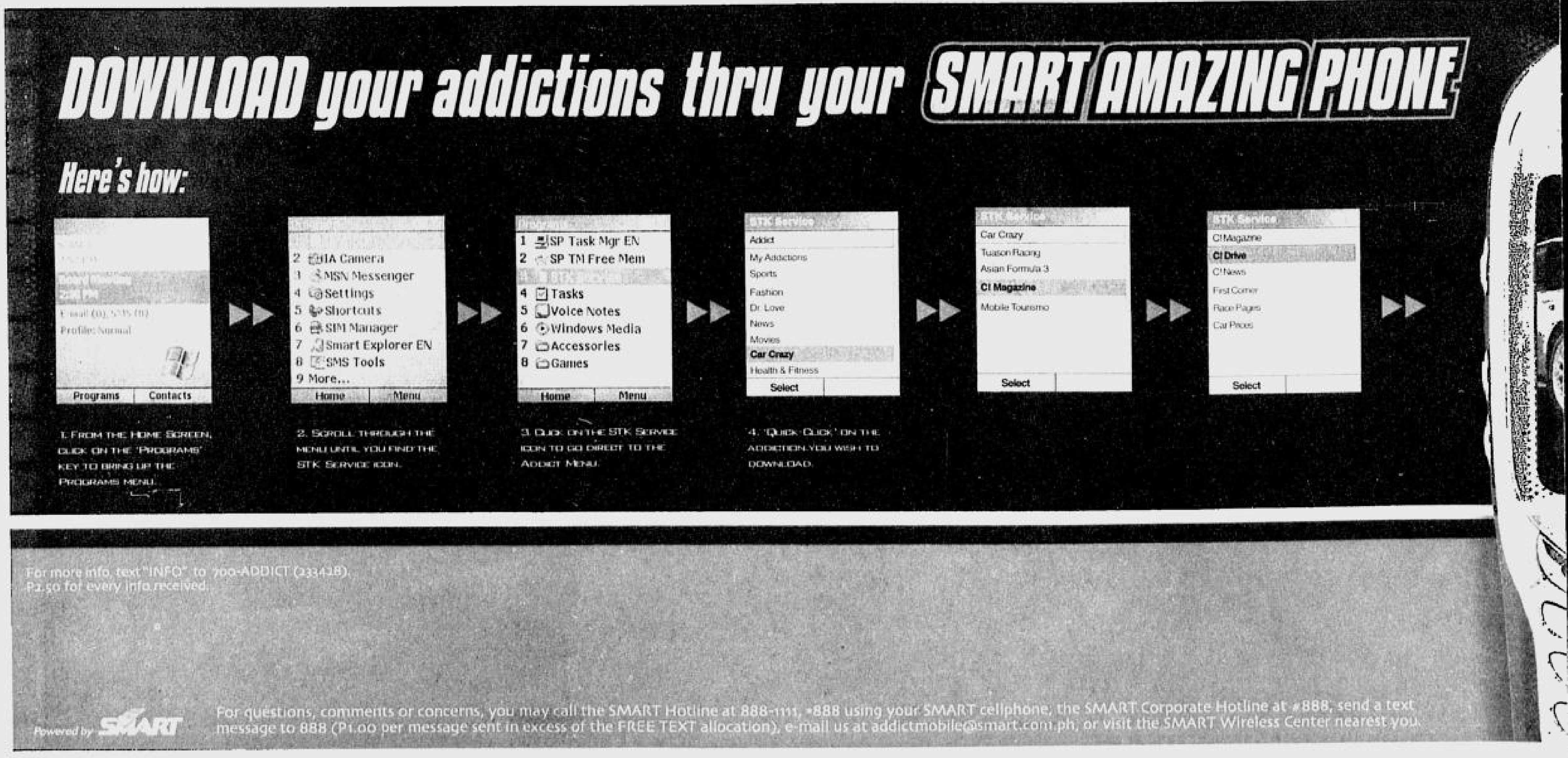

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Extended

SHOW TIME

"SONGBIRD Sings Streisand" has been extended this month at Onstage theater in Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

The show is Regine Velasquez's musical tribute to Barbra Streisand, the original diva.

"Songbird Sings Streisand" continues its run on Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20.

Tickets may be bought at all Ticketworld outlets at major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), or Maxi-Media (551-7777, 551-8999).

VELASQUEZ. 3 more weekends

GOODBYE, 'LOLA' LYDIA A long and last goodbye is silently said by Richard Gomez, his wife Lucy Torres and their daughter Juliana to Lydia Kelly Gomez, the actor's paternal grandmother who brought him up and taught him everything he needed to know about living. 'Lola' Lydia died of cancer at 87 last Tuesday and was buried last Friday. RANDY HORMILLOSA

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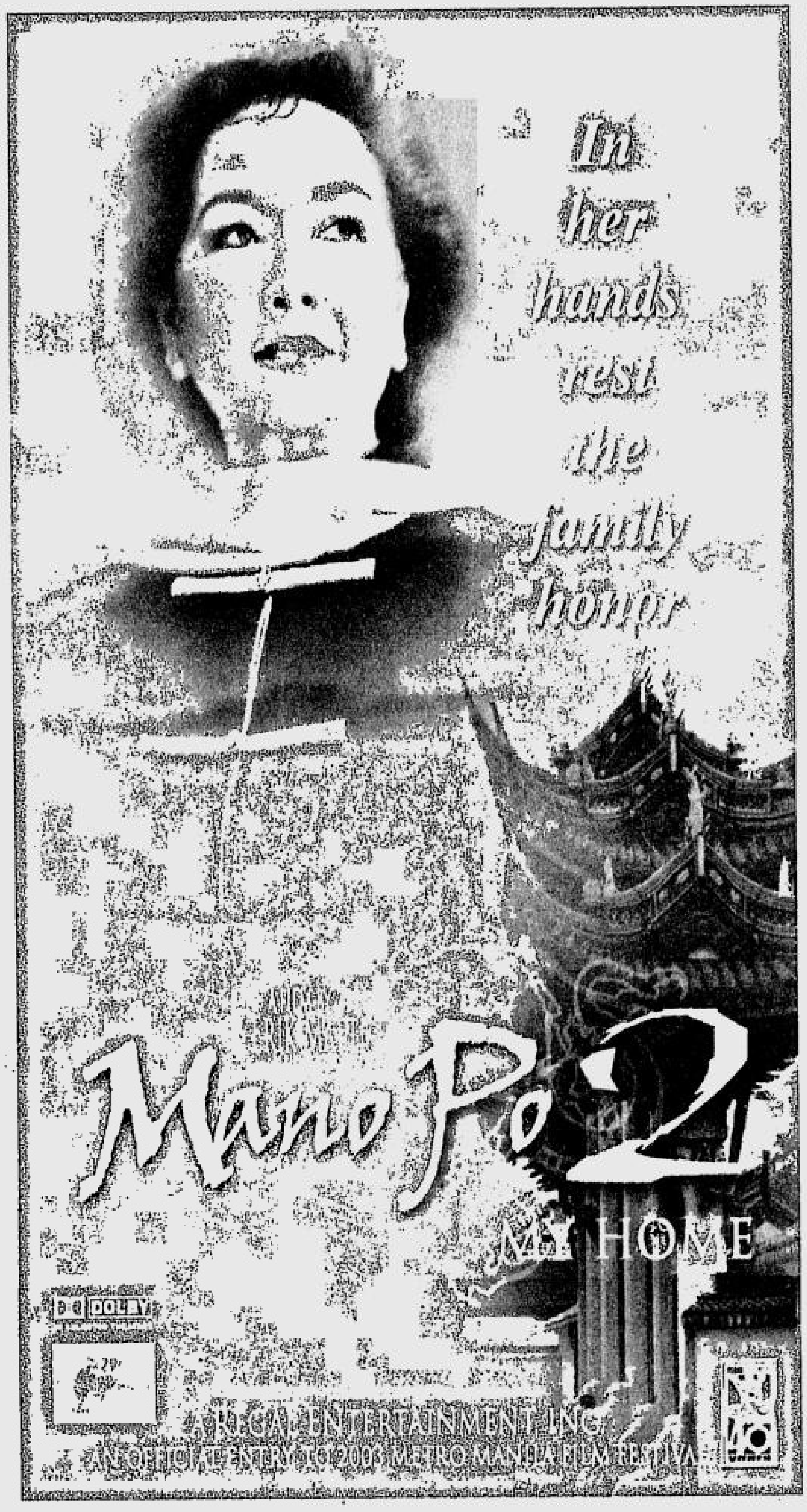
In her hands rest the family honor
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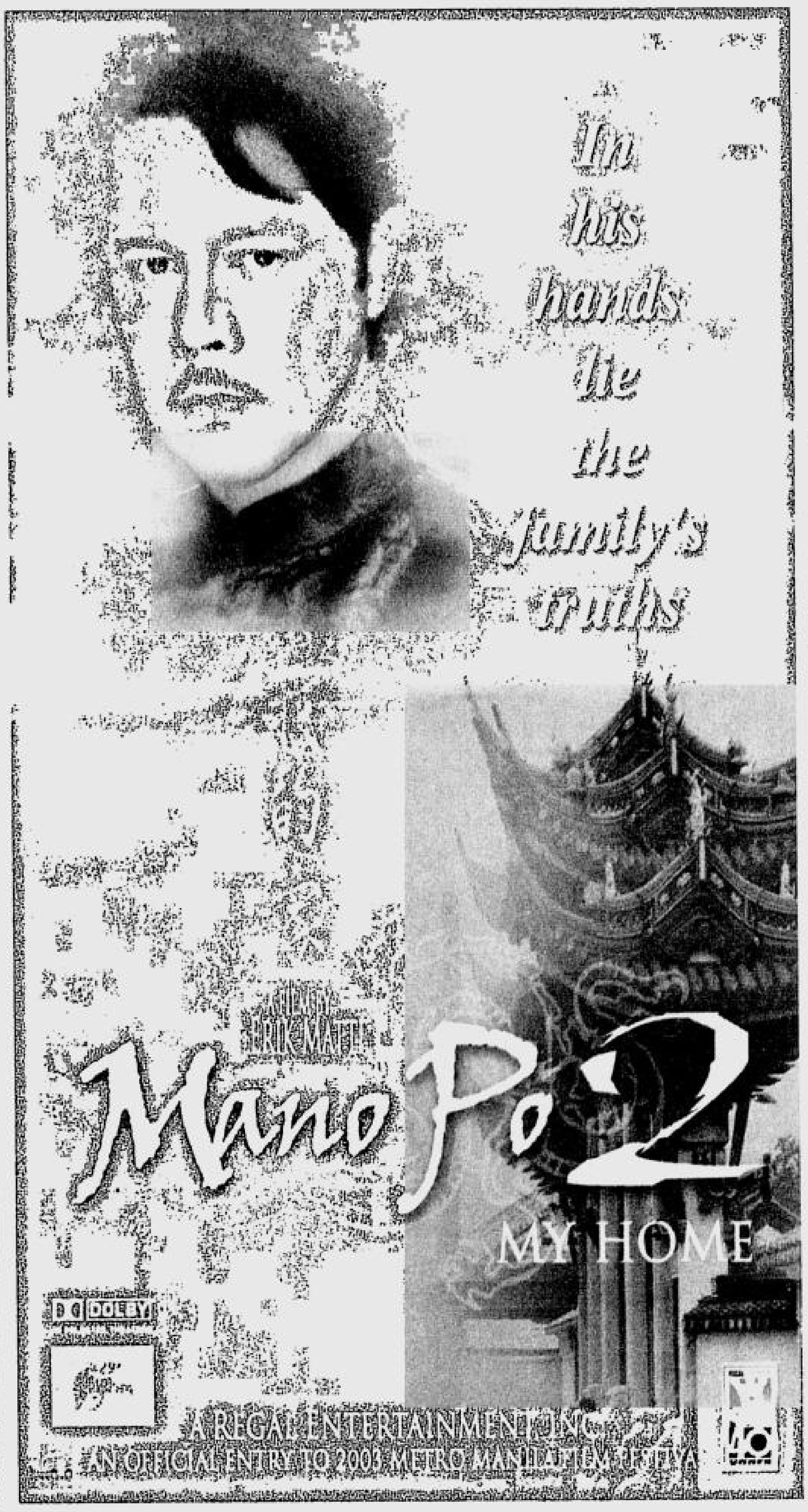
In his hands lie the family's truths
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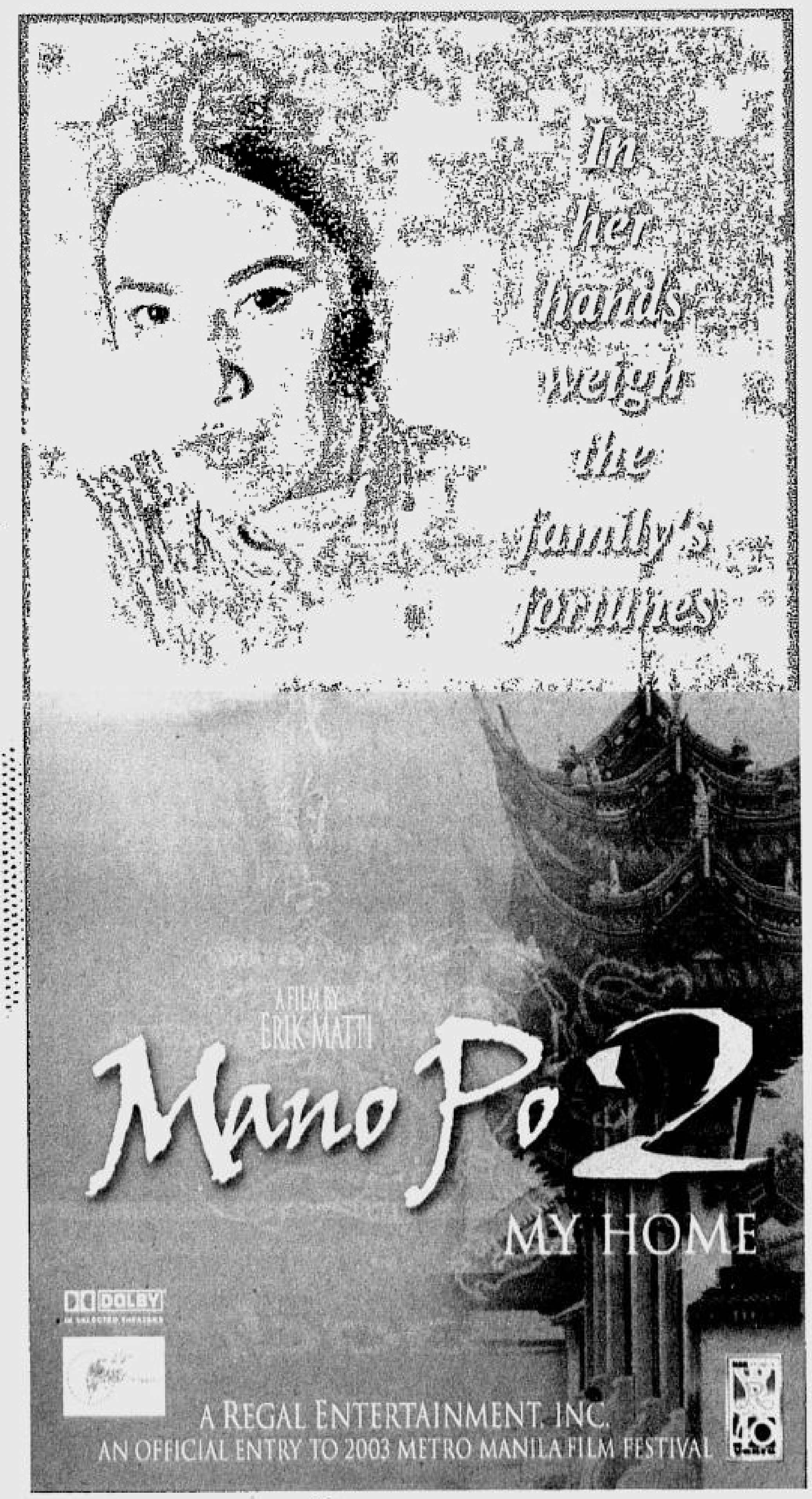
In her hands weigh the family's fortunes
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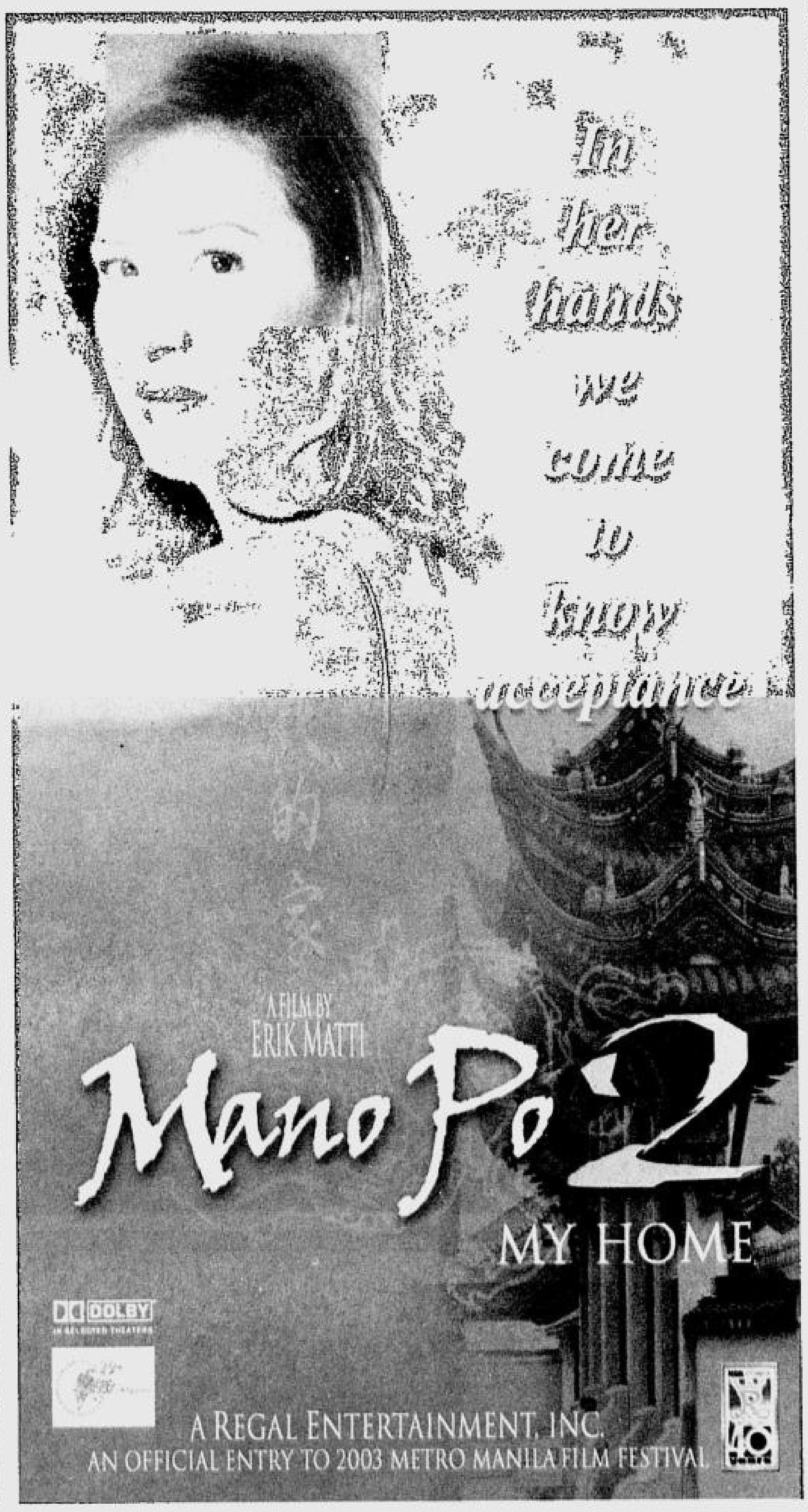
In her hands we come to know acceptance
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SHOW TIME

SOTTO

Ciara, classical pop singer

CIARA Sotto will be reborn as a classical pop singer when BMG Records Pilipinas Inc. launches her new album today on ABS-CBN 2's "ASAP Mania."

The 10-track "Ciara" album with seven English songs and two Tagalog cuts will introduce Ciara as the Philippine counterpart of Charlotte Church and the female version of Josh Groban. Both foreign singers are known for their classical pop recordings.

The album cover, by photographer Ronnie Salvacion, shows the former teenybopper's transformation into an elegant, versatile performer.

The carrier single, "Ibabalik," by DJ Raymund Ryan, is about enduring love.

The other songs recorded by the daughter of Sen. Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa are the hauntingly beautiful Italian tune "Adagio"; a remake of Joe Cocker's "A Whiter Shade of Pale"; "Home to Stay," "'Di Inaasahan," "A Lover's Concierto," "If I Were You," "This Time," "All This Time" and "May Mararating."

"I hope the public will enjoy listening to the album as much as we enjoyed working on it," says Ciara, who is a junior at the UST Conservatory of Music and who is a regular performer on "ASAP Mania."

In today's album launch, Ciara's mom and dad will be doing a production number with her.

"Ciara" the album will soon be available in CDs (P280) and cassettes (P150) at record bars nationwide from BMG Records.

DID YOU KNOW...

GMA 7's "Wish Ko Lang" host **Bernadette Sembrano** was seen at Seattle's Best at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati one recent Friday night. She was introducing her date to some female friends.

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GERONIMO

Party for pop star

SARAH Geronimo is pop music's brightest star. Her debut album is already a double-platinum record.

Only in her early teens, Sarah is already a successful multimedia artist and one of Viva's moneymakers.

Today, Viva will go all out as it hosts the "Popsterrific" party for the pop princess at the New Fiesta Carnival Activity Center at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City. The party will serve as the official launch of Sarah's fans club, the Popsters.

Joining Sarah will be fellow Viva Popstars Mark Bautista, Jason Velasquez, Tosca Puno, the all-girl trio 3YO, Florie Mae Lucido, Dexter and Ashley.

The festivities start with registration at 2:30 p.m., with the first 200 registrants getting gift packs from Bambini and Hair Works.

In this year's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), Sarah is in the cast of Viva's "Filipinas" as well as of Premiere Productions' "Captain Barbel," which will be released by Viva Films.

On Dec. 28, Sarah stars in the concert "Popstar . . . A Dream Come True" at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City, with Jay-R, Mark Bautista and the rest of the Viva Popstars.

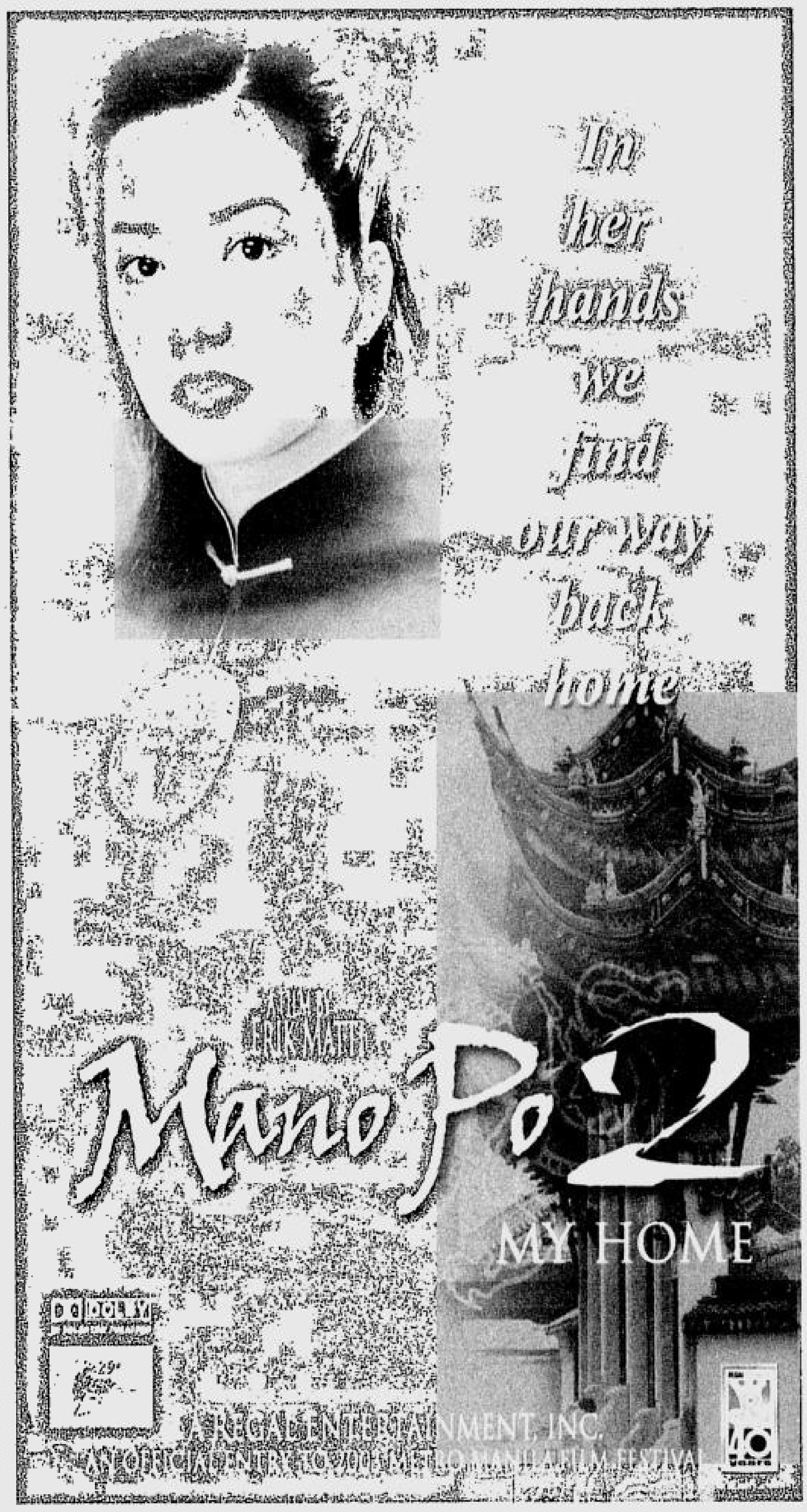
Today's party at the New Fiesta Carnival is sponsored by Viva Records, Bambini Colognes and Lotions, Hair Works Gel, Pepsi Blue and the Araneta Center.

LOTR shirts from HBO

IN CONNECTION with the HBO showing of the blockbuster movie "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" on Dec. 13 at 9 p.m., HBO is giving away 20 LOTR T-shirts.

All you have to do is answer this question: When will "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" premiere exclusively on HBO?

Send your answer to nespinosa@virtusio.com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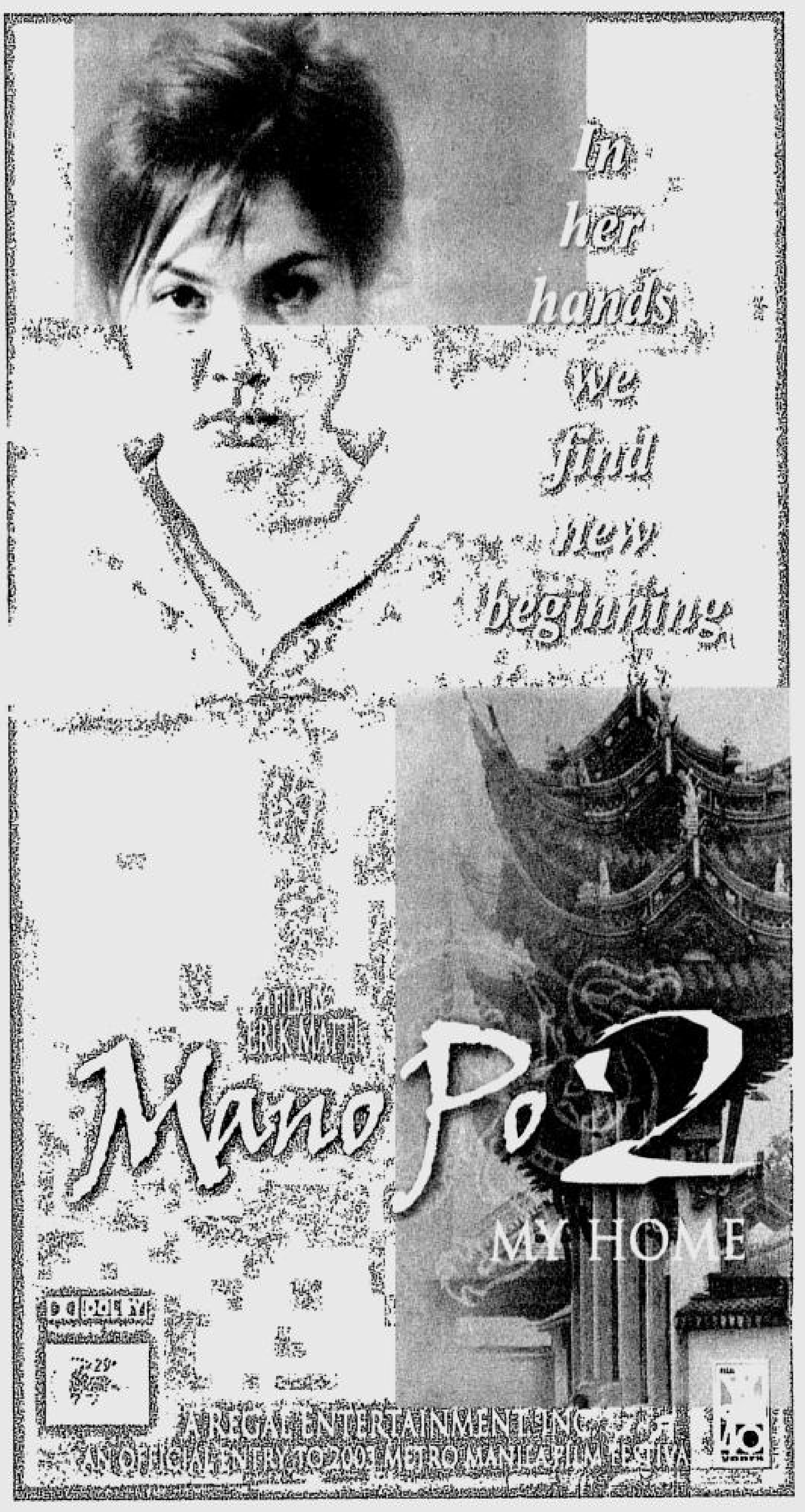
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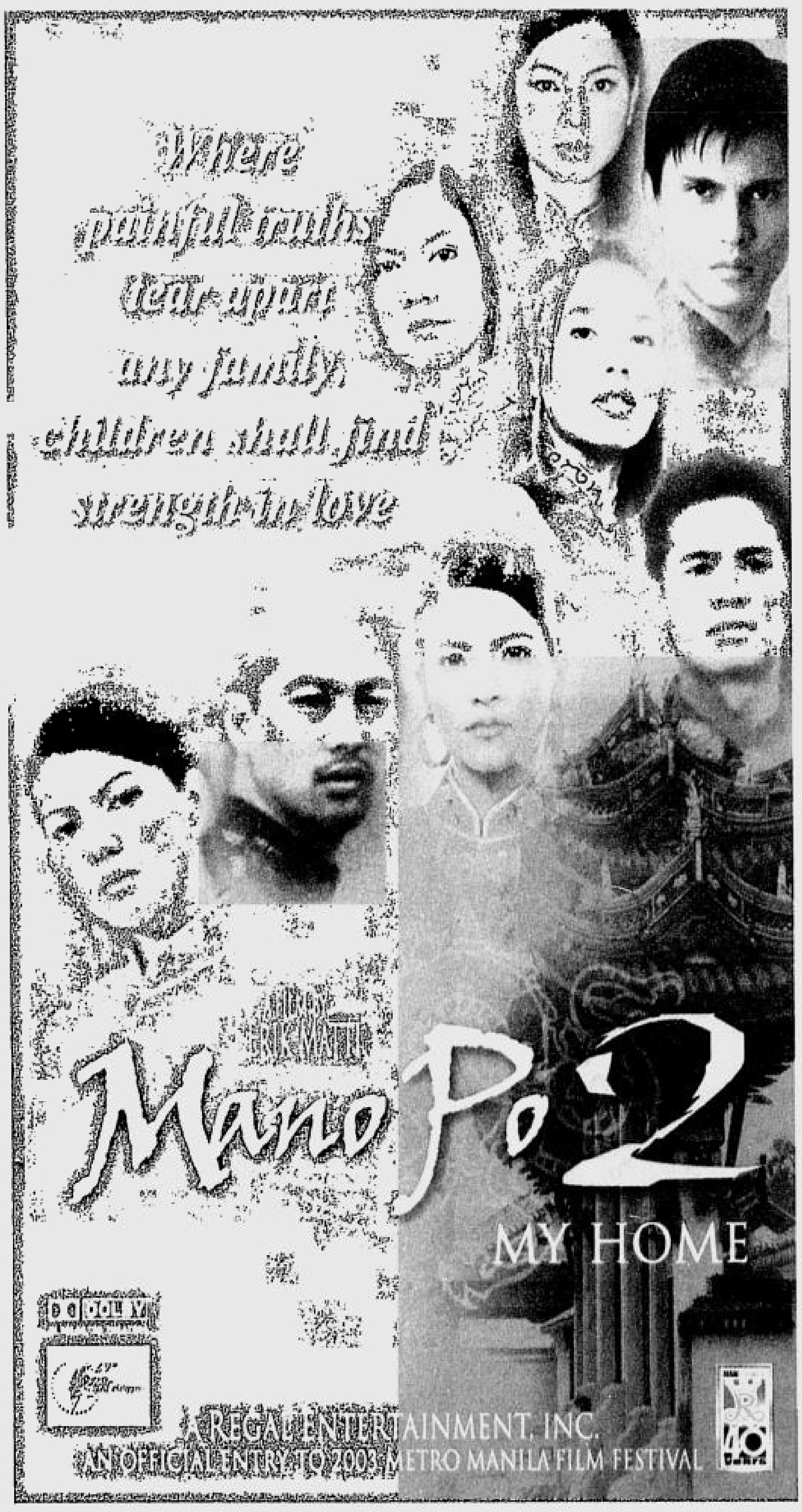
Where painful truths tear apart any family, children shall find strength in love
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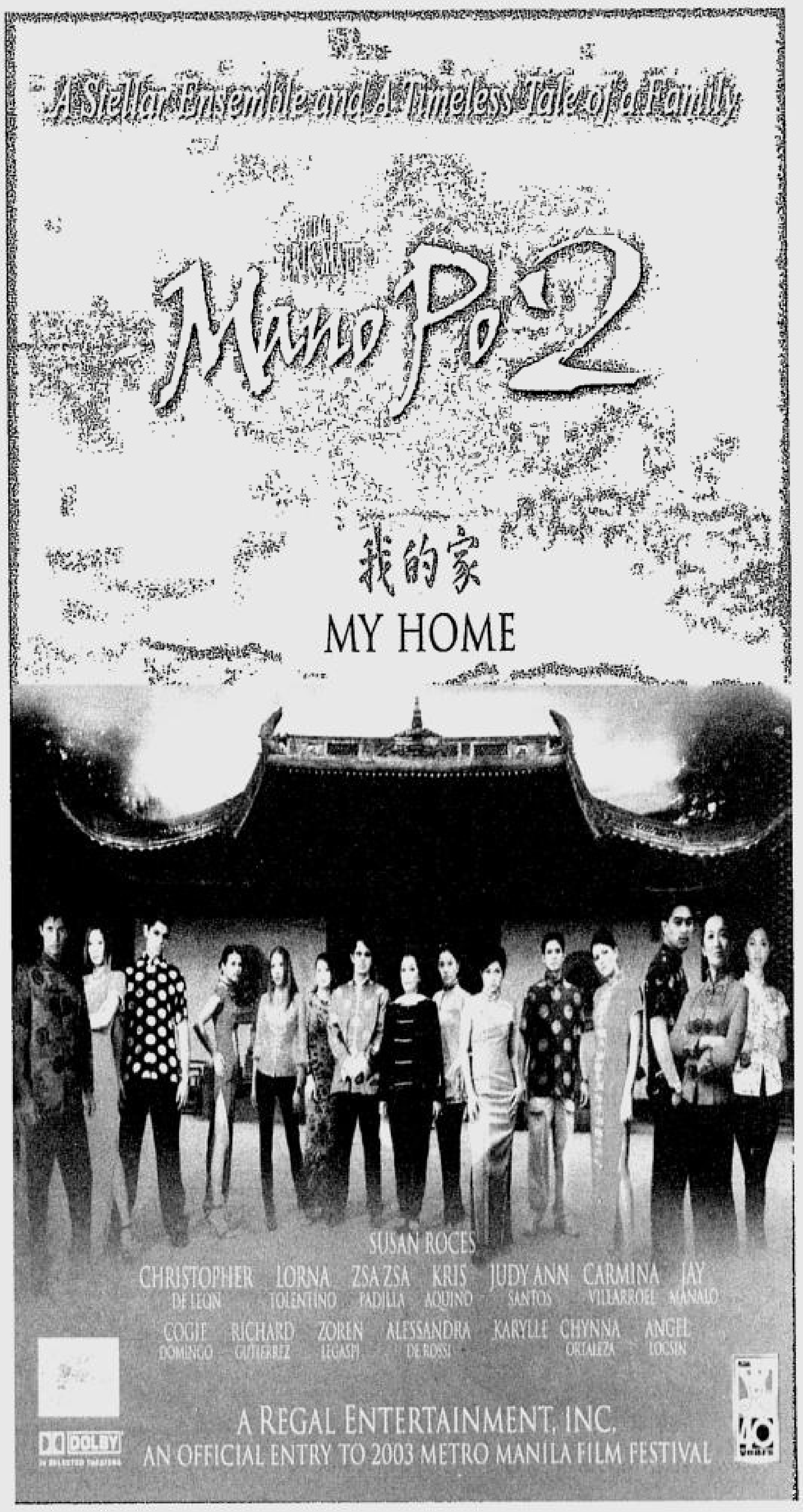
A Stellar Ensemble and A Timeless Tale of a Family
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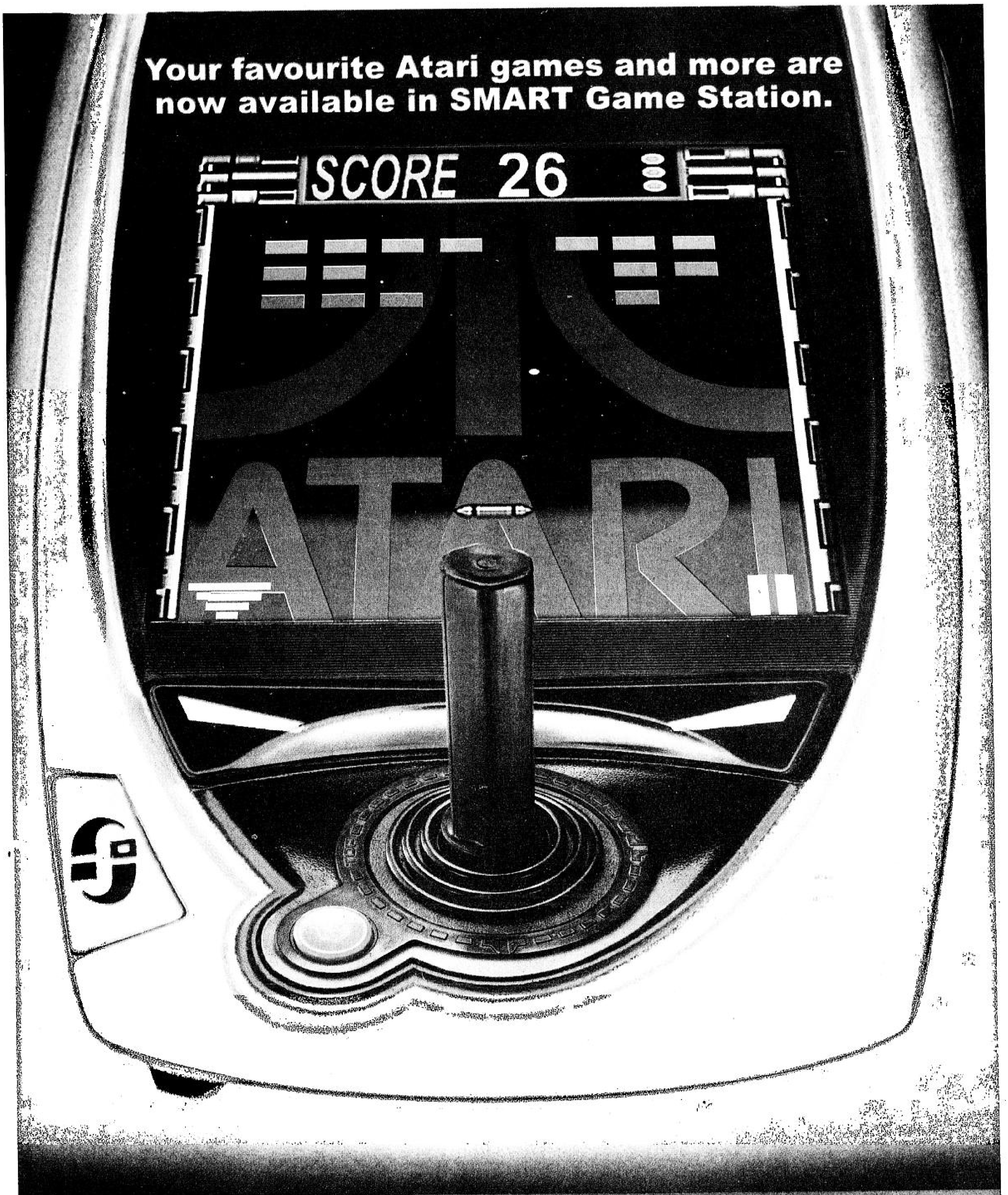

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

THE GIFTING EXECUTIVE

What to give colleagues without ruining your reputation

By Mol Fernando
Contributor

I UPHOLD a personal tradition of giving fellow executives a token of some kind to mark the Yuletide season. A modest prize, really, for their having made it through another 365 days in the company of one predisposed to swagger and braggadocio. Christmas time is when I let loose and try to show some spark of life underneath my *barong*.

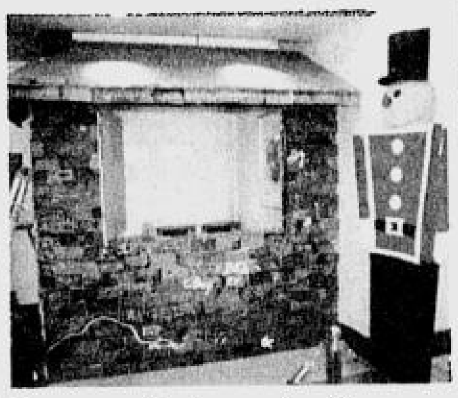
Several things must be considered in choosing a gift:

Is the gift something you yourself would want to receive? A gift, even if token, has to be of some practical use. No one wants to throw away a gift so don't force them by giving things they are sure to get again on the next occasion. Case in point are fruitcakes,

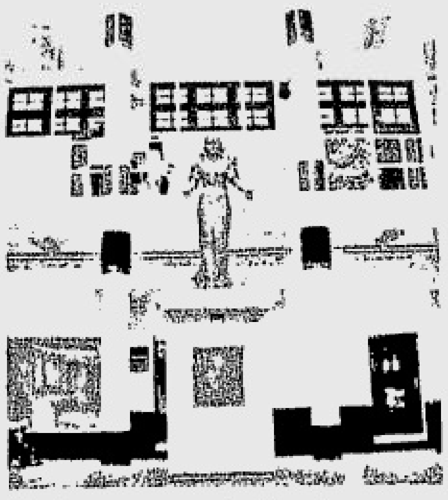
WHAT/ D3

ILLUSTRATION BY LA

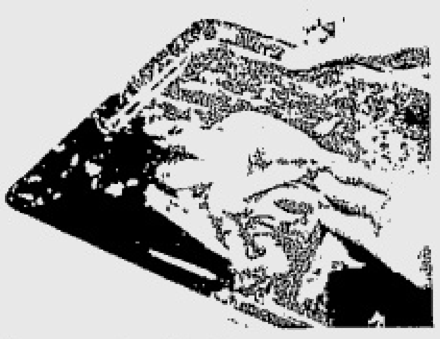
WHAT'S INSIDE



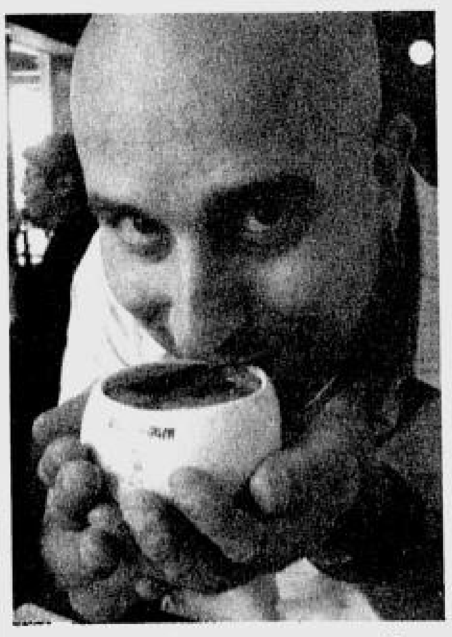
Season's joys to the kids /F1



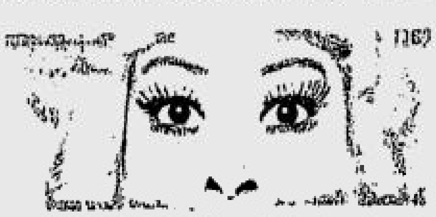
Taipans put their money in education /I1



Romulo Galicano does ceramics /J1



The bald man cometh with his chocolate /L1



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Sisters of Mary founder to be declared 'Servant of God'

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MONSIGNOR Aloysius Schwartz, founder of the Sisters of Mary who runs Girlstown and Boystown and the Brothers of Christ, will be declared "Servant of God" on Dec. 10, 9 a.m., at the Manila Cathedral, opening the process of the cause of his beatification and canonization.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will officiate in the Holy Mass, while Cardinal Vidal will give the homily. The judge advocate of the cause is Msgr. Jerome Reyes.

This "opening ceremony" means the Catholic Church will now approve the gathering of testimonies and documents that will prove that Msgr. Al had practiced heroic virtues in his life.

With the faithful continuously praying for his intercession, the occurrence of a miracle through his intercession is needed in order for him to be beatified or called "blessed"—a title that will permit local veneration, with his pictures or images now allowed to be exposed in places where he is known.

Another authentic miracle through his intercession will finally raise him to the altar of the saints. This time public veneration for him will be allowed at any place.

Who is Msgr. Aloysius Schwartz?

Msgr. Aloysius Schwartz was born in Washington D.C. on Sept. 18, 1930, to Louis Schwartz and Cedelia Bourassa. He grew up wanting to become a priest—a secular priest, but working as a missionary whose apostolate would be for the poor and the needy.

In 1944, he entered St. Charles Seminary in Maryland. He finished his B.A. Degree at Maryknoll College and then joined the Societe des Auxiliares des Mission (S.A.M.) and studied theology at Louvain Catholic University in Belgium.

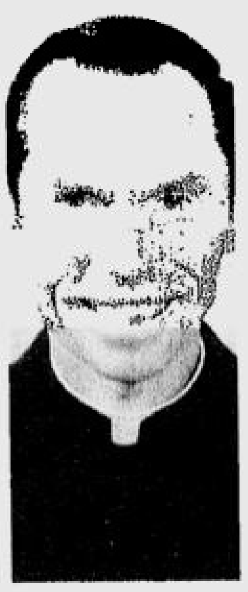
He used to spend his vacation helping at the rag-pickers' camps. During his first visit to the Shrine of the Virgin of the Poor, he felt more inspired to dedicate his priesthood to the service of the poor, in fulfillment of the message of Our Lady.

He was ordained as a diocesan priest on June 29, 1975, at St. Martin's Church, Washington D.C., and he chose Korea as his first assignment, although he was told that he might not be able to persevere because of his somewhat delicate health.

On Dec. 8, 1957, he arrived in Korea. As a consequence of the Korean War, the country had many widows, orphans, beggars and street children. Almost one-half of the adult population was without productive employment and reduced to selling rags and waste paper, begging and stealing as a last resort.

But Msgr. Al thanked God that after 13 years of preparation, he had arrived at a place where he could serve Him through the poorest of the poor.

He established Boystown and Girlstown to take care of, educate and give a bright future to orphans, street children and children from very poor families up to their late teens. He also built hospitals and sanatoriums for very indigent patients, as well as hospices for homeless and disabled elderly men, retarded children and unwed mothers.



MONSIGNOR Aloysius Schwartz

In 1983, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for his excellent charity works in Korea, and for the first time, he came to Manila. In 1985, seeing the urgent need of the poor, especially the children, and through the invitation of Jaime Cardinal Sin and his total trust in God's providence, he started a new religious community in the Archdiocese of Manila, spreading his charity work into the country's slums and destitute areas.

In 1988, he received the Mother Teresa Award from the Manila Jaycees in Manila. He was also invited by Ricardo Cardinal Vidal to establish his charity programs in Cebu in 1989.

At present, Msgr. Al's charities take care of almost 12,000 boys and girls who come from different provinces of the country. They are provided food, clothing, shelter and high-quality high school education with intensive vocational training totally free-of-charge, at the Sisters of Mary Boystown and Girlstown Schools in Sta. Mesa, Manila, Silang, Cavite, Talisay City and Minglanilla, Cebu.

In 1989, this great man was diagnosed with a terminal illness, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), which he accepted with much joy, serenity and courage as a gift from God. He suffered excruciating pains due to his illness, yet he smiled and cracked jokes to make others happy.

In spite of his deteriorating health, he was still able to establish Boystown and Girlstown in Mexico, which he called his "unfinished symphony."

On March 16, 1992, Msgr. Al breathed his last at Girlstown Manila and was buried at the Boystown in Silang, Cavite.

Those who experience Msgr. Al's intercession can write the Sisters of Mary at Girlstown on 1000 Cordillera St., Sta. Mesa, Manila. For prayer copies, please write to the same address.

Pasig holds fiesta

The Immaculate Conception Parish in Pasig, which is now the seat of the Diocese of Pasig, will celebrate the fiesta in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception from Dec. 6-8.

Established in 1575, this parish is one of the oldest in the country. Local historians say it is the first Marian parish in the Philippines and the second in the whole of Asia.

Ramon Peralta, grandfather of fashion designer Oskar Peralta, painted the ceiling with icons of saints, but they are not visible today because they were painted over.

Wilma Gomez-Ignacio and Mario Bernardino head the "comite de festejos" which has mapped out the festivities, including a concert by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra inside the Cathedral on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., and a *serenata* of the Taytay and Angono bands at the Plaza Rizal on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.

On fiesta day, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. a concelebrated Mass will be officiated by Bishop Francisco San Diego followed by a procession. Another procession will be held at 6 p.m., followed by a variety show and fireworks display.

Virgen de los Remedios

The fiesta of the Virgen de los Remedios in San Fernando, Pampanga, was attended by hundreds of devotees coming from Pampanga and other places. The Virgin was wearing a new vestment made of *piña* designed by Dom Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, and donated by his family.

Last Dec. 3, the Virgen de los Remedios Parish in Baliti held the official ground-breaking for the renovation of the church. The occasion also marked the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the parish.

Those who want *estampitas* of the Virgin can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Raffle tickets are also being sold, with Dec. 28 as raffle date. For tickets, please text Father Mar at 0919-3044172.

Our Lady of Guadalupe fiesta

Churches dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe will mark the feast of the Virgin on Dec. 12 with Novena Masses. The Archdiocesan Shrine in Guadalupe, Makati, is holding ongoing Novena Masses until Dec. 11, centering on the theme: "Birhen ng Guadalupe: Patrona ng Rosaryo at Pagpapahalaga sa Buhay."

Msgr. Salvador Jose, rector and parish priest, will lead the celebration on Dec. 12, with a special fiesta Mass at 12 nn by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco.

Other Masses will be said by Bishop Raul Martirez at 5 p.m.; Bishop Soc Villegas at 6:30 p.m. and Bishop Deogracias Iñiquez at 8 p.m. Pasig Bishop Francisco San Diego will say Mass on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

All for Jesus Marriage encounter

Married couples interested in renewing their commitment and rediscovering more about each other are invited to join the Marriage Encounter weekend seminar on Dec. 12-14, at the Angels Hills Formation center in Tagaytay City.

The marriage encounter is by the All for Jesus (AJ) Marriage Encounter series under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Jess Fernandez, S.J. AJ belongs to the Marriage Encounter Foundation Philippines, Tuklasan Sector, which seeks to rediscover, renew, enhance and invigorate the depth of mutual commitment among married Christians.

Call 0916-4251289, 0916-6274256, 0920-9059697 or 0917-3281421.

Happy feast day, Mama Mary!

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ideas for life

What to give colleagues without ruining your reputation

A present, even if only a token one, has to be of some practical use

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LA

From page D1

food-for-the-gods, brownies and cookies (in a similar vein, remember the silver platter you got for your wedding?).

A few make the rounds

An urban legend goes that only a hundred fruitcakes are actually baked during the Christmas season in Metro Manila. The run-up to Dec. 25 is a frenzy of passing on those cakes that, on Christmas day, all of Metro Manila would have received at least one (and passed it on).

The personal gifts I get from other executives follow the same pattern. Last year, aside from the cakes and pastries already mentioned, I received the usual wines and spirits. A few of these were unique. I also got a pretty basket of local homemade soaps and a hamper filled with *balut* and salted duck's eggs from Pateros. One Christmas card said what would have been used to buy me a fruitcake (No. 18?) was donated instead to a nearby orphanage.

Each gift should have some unique aspect to it, something that reveals one's personality and hopefully makes an impression on the recipient. Something handmade (by you, preferably, if you have the skills) would be nice. Something that cannot be readily bought in the local market, even if reasonably priced (read: cheap), would have some value because of its scarcity. But hey, let's not get too exotic. Try to avoid snakes in wine or candied beetles in *taho*.

As I've already mentioned, it is important that the gifts are reasonably priced. That is, unless you are staring at a big fat year-end bonus and your idea of impressing your fellow executives and you want to play a game of one-upmanship. Something modestly priced and thoughtfully put-together that would also challenge the imagination would be ideal.

Garlic wreaths

On a trip north one balmy November, I bought 30 kilos of large native garlic. I asked the vendor to braid the garlic into strands of a kilo each, which I picked up the next afternoon. The braided garlic was later fashioned into Christmas wreaths by, who else, my loving wife Lilli Ann (who is gifted in crafts making).

The 30 garlic wreaths with red *abaca* twined around them and little Christmas balls became conversation pieces. "Vampires been bothering you?", visitors asked fellow executives who hung the wreaths in their office.

Another time I purchased several kilos of dried beans—rice beans (*tapilan*), black-eyed peas (*utaw*), black beans and red beans (*azuki*). We packed them (well, okay, my wife did) in woven mat baskets of *anahaw* leaves. Each package was then decorated with a small store-bought red and green Christmas wreath and sent off with literature describing each type of bean and how it should be cooked.

The rice beans were to be made into a soup with local vegetables much like the Italian minestrone. The black-eyed peas could be done Ilonggo style, stewed with native chicken and garnished with fresh native chili leaves. The black beans were to be simmered in a broth with fresh pork knuckles and served with a siding of steamed *camote* tops and a dip of fish *bagoong*. Finally, the *azuki* or red *monggo* beans were to be cooked and steeped in sugar syrup flavored with some cloves, a few sticks of cinnamon and laced with a whisper of vanilla essence. The concoction was then to be used to garnish the top of a scoop of *mantecado* ice cream. Or, on a humid afternoon, it could be simply scooped into a mound of shaved ice splashed with fresh milk.

Of course, for non-cooks, the beans just remained on a side table in their *anahaw* packages.

Getting even

Other gifts did not require recipes. My sister-in-law, potter Lanelle Abueva, had a bodega sale of handmade stoneware teacups and saucers, overruns of an institutional order. These, poor Lilli Ann packed in sets of one dozen, half-a-dozen, fours and pairs in small *tampipis*. My fellow executives received the tea sets, the number of pieces depending on the size of their office and how, during that Christmas, they ranked in my estimation. Oh yes, Virginia, you can get even on Christmas and not feel guilty about it.

Fancy rice is always appreciated. One Christmas it was a fancy upland rice variety named Angelica (R64) that I bought from an organic farmer in Nueva Ecija. Angelica is one of the few remaining upland rice varieties. It is a long-grained variety with excellent eating qualities comparable to the oft-mislabeled and much-abused *milagrosa*. It is glutinous with an aroma reminiscent of freshly cut hay. Angelica can also be eaten cold as it does not become a hardened mass.

We packed the raw rice in specially made jute bags and once again glue-gunned red and green ribbons and tiny balls.

Christmas season is indeed your opportunity to reveal your personality through gifts, to peel off your corporate armor and show your true, grinning and happy self.

Maligayang Pasko!

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As a member company of one of the largest and most diversified financial groups in the country, Philam Asset Management, Inc., is continuously looking for ways to use its billions of pesos in resources, the expertise of its professional staff, and its sincere mission of helping every Filipino live a better life. With the GSIS Kinabukasan Fund, we've succeeded in giving many hard-working, savings-conscious, future-oriented Filipinos a new and better way for their money to make more money.

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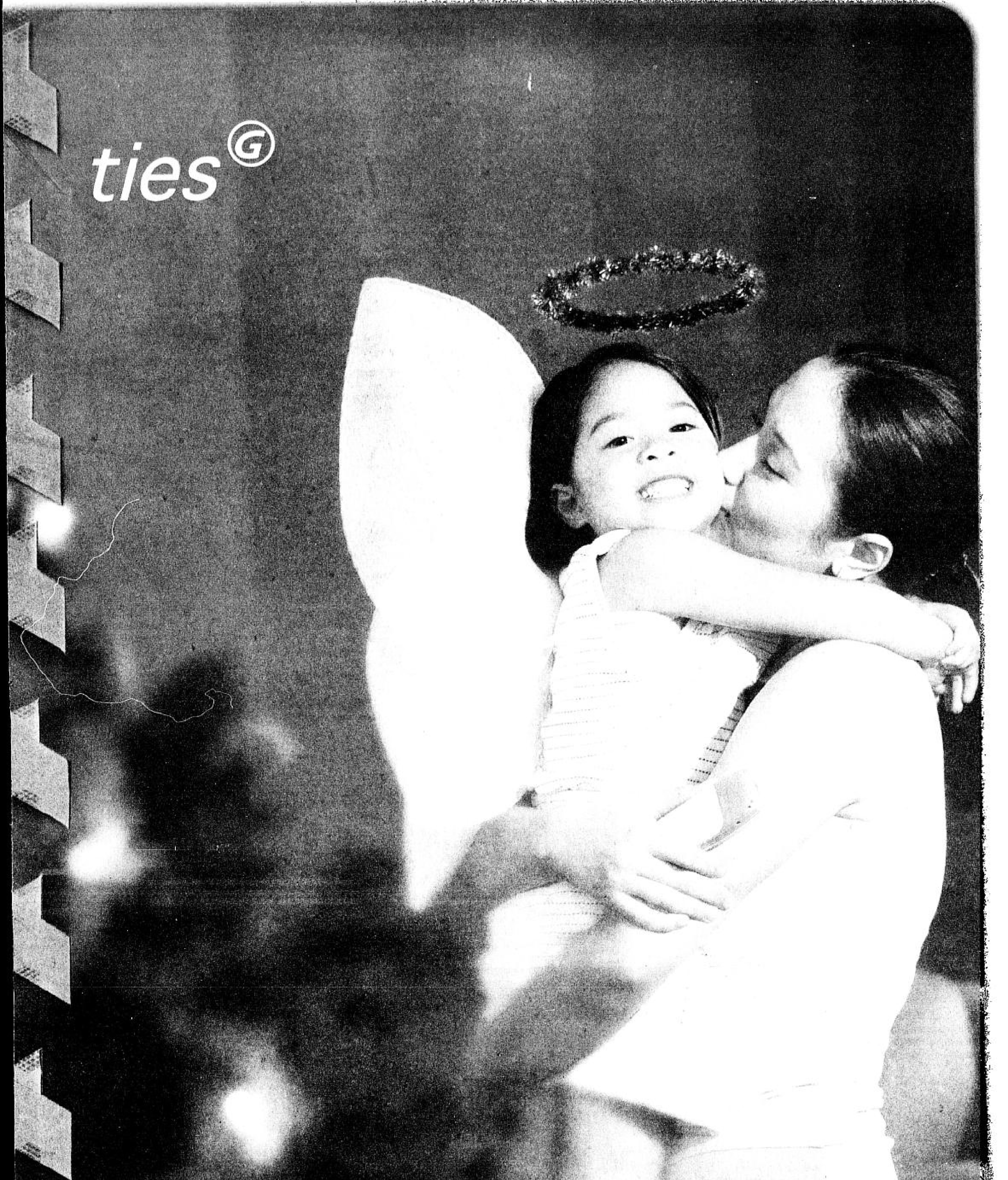
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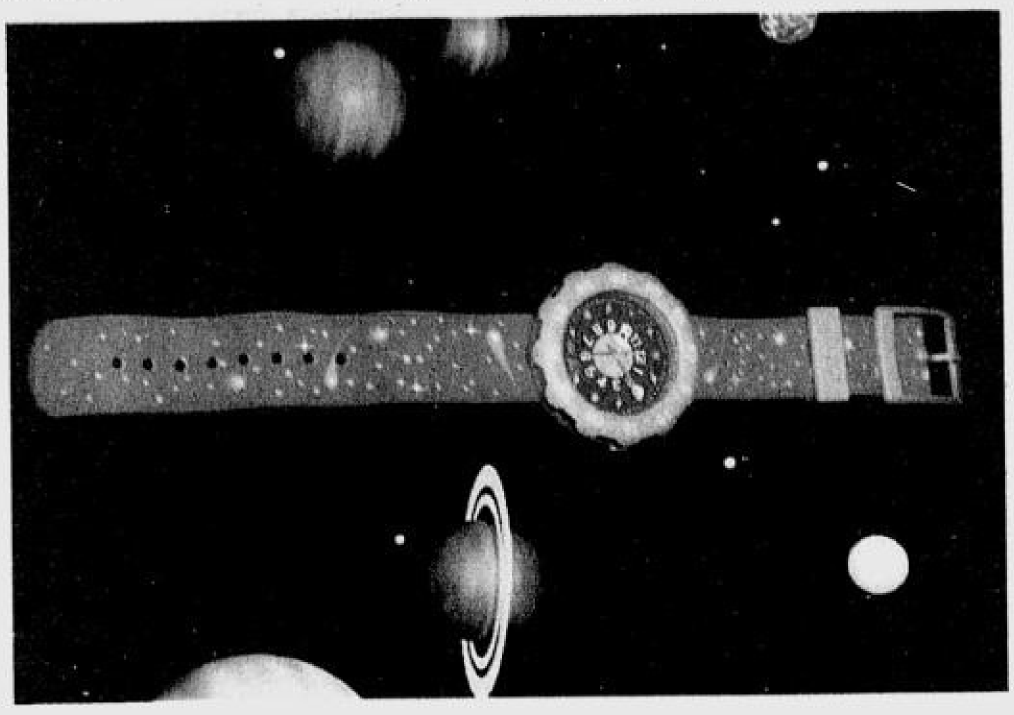
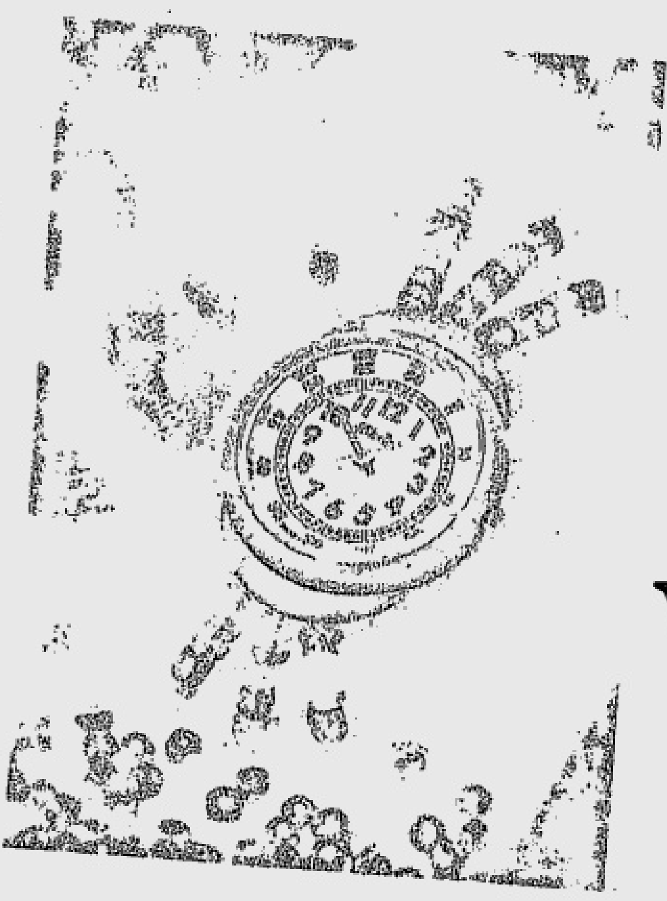
Just text IM to 2371 or log-on to www.myglobe.com.ph for more details.

Wish list

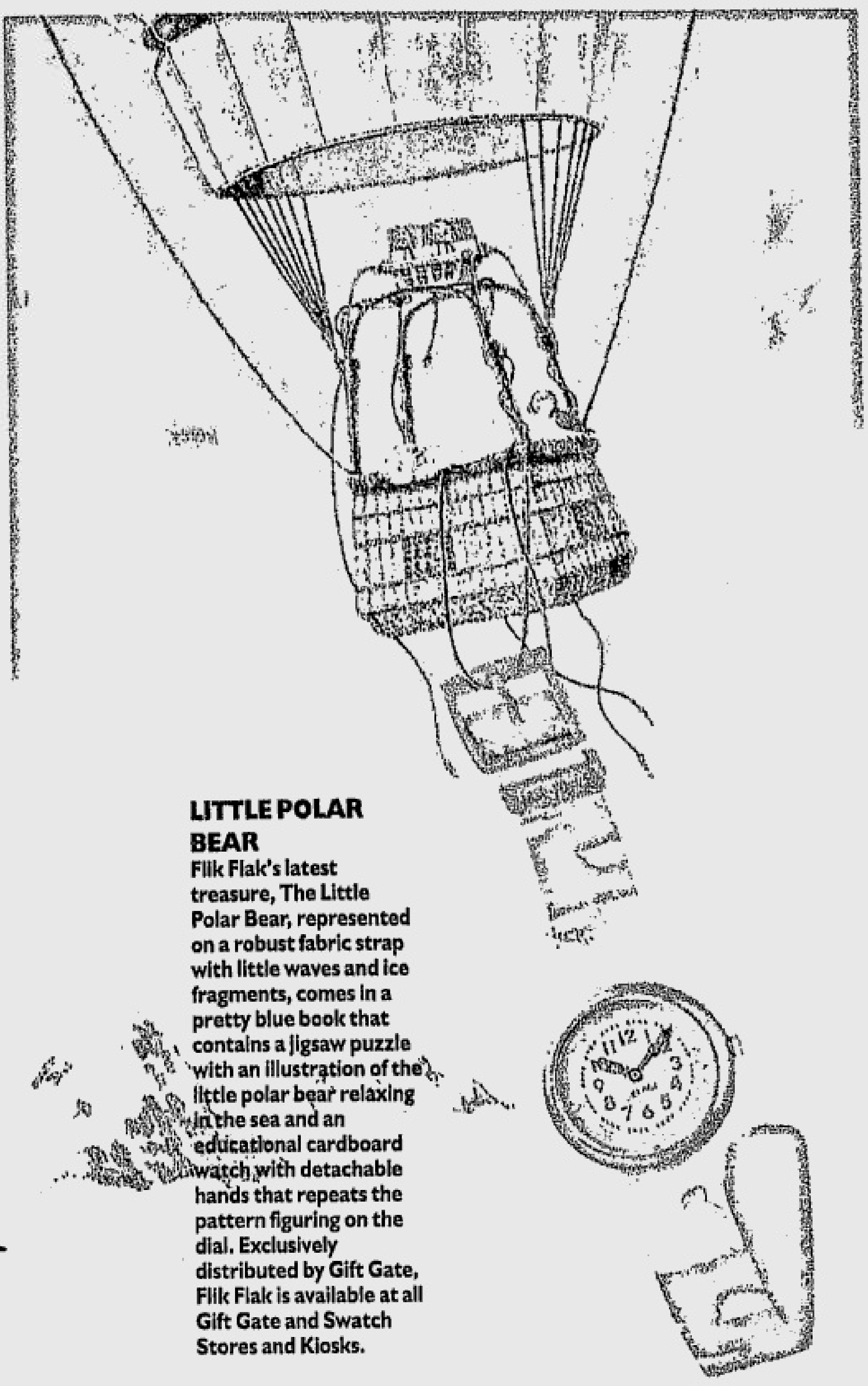
Yes, it's that time of year again to play Santa, so here are some ideas for what you can put under the Christmas tree



JOYFUL MYSTERY For the future astronaut, the Mysterious Flik Flak is a celebration of the infinite splendors of space. Sun, moon, stars, planets and unidentified flying objects provide a stunning backdrop for the "down to earth" business of telling the time in hours, minutes and seconds. Exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Flik Flak is available at all Gift Gate and Swatch Stores and Kiosks.

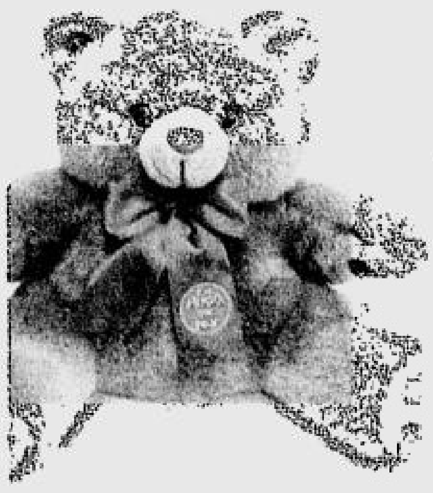


GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN With the very pretty Perles de Folie by Flik Flak, little girls can invent their special watches and jewelry for almost every occasion! Exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Flik Flak is available at all Gift Gate and Swatch Stores and Kiosks.



LITTLE POLAR BEAR Flik Flak's latest treasure, The Little Polar Bear, represented on a robust fabric strap with little waves and ice fragments, comes in a pretty blue book that contains a jigsaw puzzle with an illustration of the little polar bear relaxing in the sea and an educational cardboard watch with detachable hands that repeats the pattern figuring on the dial. Exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Flik Flak is available at all Gift Gate and Swatch Stores and Kiosks.

BEST FRIENDS. Russ plush dogs come with their own holiday cheer—bright burgundy scarves around their necks that help bring holiday cheer all around. Soft, cuddly and simply irresistible, you'll never want to put them down. Russ is available at all Gift Gate stores nationwide.



GET A HUGG. National Book Store Christmas shoppers this season can get one Hugg the Bear for only P199 with every P500 worth of single or accumulated purchases from the same branch until Dec. 15. Purchases made using credit cards, Laking National e-purse, Laking National Gift Certificates and National Book Store Gift Cheques qualify for the promo. Visit the National Book Store branch nearest you.

Make a gift more special

HAVE your gifts personalized by an expert and turn a generic gift into something special and personal. You can have names of friends, colleagues, or family members names, or special messages engraved, etched, or embroidered on gifts at Made for U. The company can also design and produce quality original custom creations and giveaways this holiday season and all year round.

Made for U branches are at the upper ground floor, SM Southmall, Las Piñas City; level 2, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City; and level 2, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City.

Call 9134776, or e-mail info@madeforu.biz.

NATIVITY TREASURES
For people who like to collect things, the Nativity scene in delicate figurines made of fine porcelain from Precious Moments and Lladro of Spain is perfect. Available at Imperial House of Gifts, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rockwell, SM Megamall, Landmark Department Store, Multinational Village in Parañaque, 6750 Ayala Branch and MC Home Depot in Fort Bonifacio. Call 6357542 to 43.

Why not give 'wellness'?

GIVE your loved ones practical Christmas gifts to enhance their well-being. The Flower Shop Wellness offers more than 15 variants of all-natural handmade soap to suit anyone's needs.

Sampaguita aids in skin lightening and deodorizing and avocado in hydrating and moisturizing dry skin. Tea tree helps eliminate pimples, scabs and minor skin problems.

The Flower Shop is at Rustan's Essenses in Makati, Alabang Town Center, Tower and Robinsons Place.

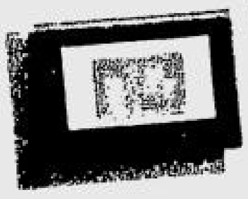
Call 8431319.

TEA Tree Leaves by The Flower Shop

Pen and paper

DIARIES and Notes is an impressive assembly of practical and sensible accessories from Montblanc. Each case in the Diaries and Notes collection is made from naturally-tanned leather of the finest quality.

There are three slices to the Montblanc's Diaries and Notes pie that is led by "Diaries," four small books from the mini-organizer to the "Baby Diary." Next are the "Notes" comprised of three notebooks, from the large "Notes and Matters" through the medium-sized "Mind Notes" to Baby Notes." The third portion is a holder for Montblanc's writing instruments and a key ring.



Montblanc's Diaries and Notes are for those who live a lifestyle that treasures even the simple things life, from important business minutes to personal daydreaming scribbles.

The Montblanc Diaries and Notes Collection is exclusively available in Rustan's and in the Montblanc shop in Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Sweet-smelling Christmas

GIVE friends and loved ones CM Star's Essential Oils from Derm Secrets this Christmas.

Derm Secrets's Essential oils may be used for massage or as candle fragrance diffuser. They are available in three scents:

- Orange Aroma Therapy Oil has a sweet and citrus-y fragrance. The extract is rich in natural vitamin A.
- Lavender Oil has a fresh and powdery quality. It is ideal for calming the nerves and toning down after a stressful day.
- Eucalyptus Oil is cool and refreshing. It helps open up the respiratory system and is ideal for those with coughs and colds.

CM Star Direct Sales also offers a wide array of aroma therapy soaps and herbal natural soaps.

- Bergamot with Cinnamon Soap combines the warm and spicy aroma of cinnamon and the soothing comfort of bergamot.
- Milk with Honey and Vanilla Soap is calming and comforting.

It is rich in milk protein to nourish the skin. Honey, a natural balm and healing extract, is ideal for sensitive skin. Vanilla extract will make bathing a nourishing, relaxing and soothing experience.

- Rosemary with Ginger Milk Soap leaves the skin feeling clean and refreshed. Ginger milk extract is both an astringent and anti-septic.
- Spearmint with Oats Soap is a mild moisturizer that revitalizes and de-stresses. The oats soak up excess oils from the body.

Call CM Star Direct Sales at 9139066 or visit 86 9th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City.

Gift ideas for the budget-conscious

ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) makes shopping for gifts easier for you by offering numerous options at the best prices. In fact, you can shop for the whole family (dad, mom, *ate, kuya* and baby) for under P1,000.

There are groom kits and polo shirts for dad; shoulder bags, shoes and candle sets for mom; shirts, shorts, hanky and pen sets for *kuya*; and colorful tees, shorts, and mirror and brush sets for *ate*. For a baby, there are pajama sets, dresses, toys and more.

Shown in photos are some gift suggestions from RDS for your P1,000 budget.

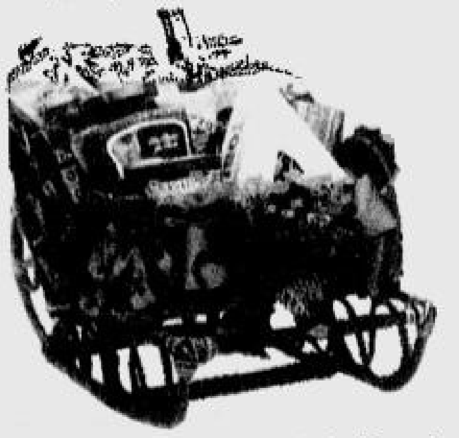
Mix and match items to suit your budget. You can find more gift ideas at the RDS branch nearest you.

JULIA shoes, **P349.75**

julia
julia

CANDLE set, **P79.75/P89.75**

ALL About Kids three-piece shirt and short set, P199.75



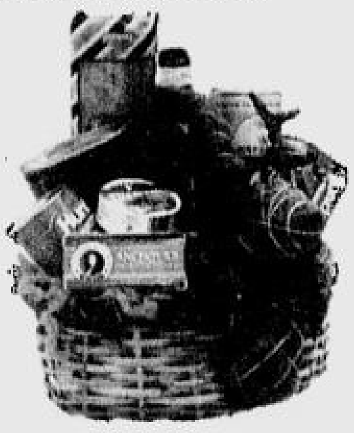
THIS BASKET of bounty includes Taster's Choice Coffee, Toblerone, Filippo Olive Oil, Franzia Red Wine, pastas, salad dressing, pistachios, honey, fruits, anchovies, ham, salmon and juice (P2,500)

Baskets of goodies

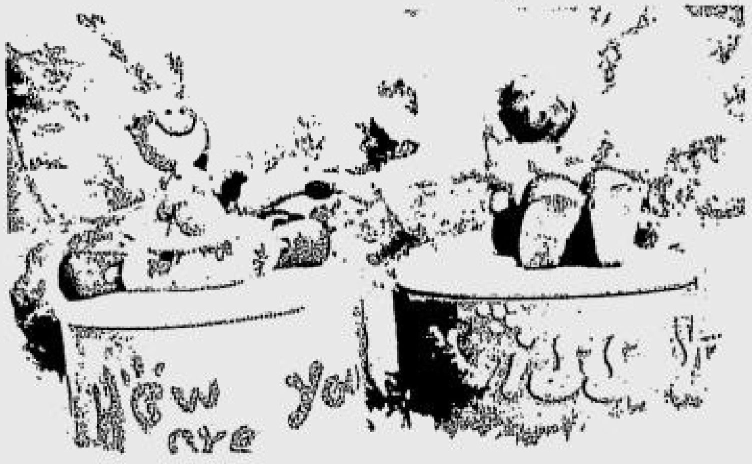
IN THIS SEASON of giving, SM Supermarket has assorted gift baskets with special treats at great prices—from P185 to P2,500.

There is a gift basket for everyone—for pasta lovers, for noche buena preparations, even a selection of Bonus items. Everything is attractively arranged in baskets, buckets and sleighs with ribbons, stars and other ornaments.

The Holiday Gift Baskets are available in all SM Supermarket branches. For inquiries, visit any of the SM Supermarket's customer service counters or log in at www.smsupermarket.com.



A GIFT idea for busy people. P1,500 worth of assorted goodies from SM Supermarket



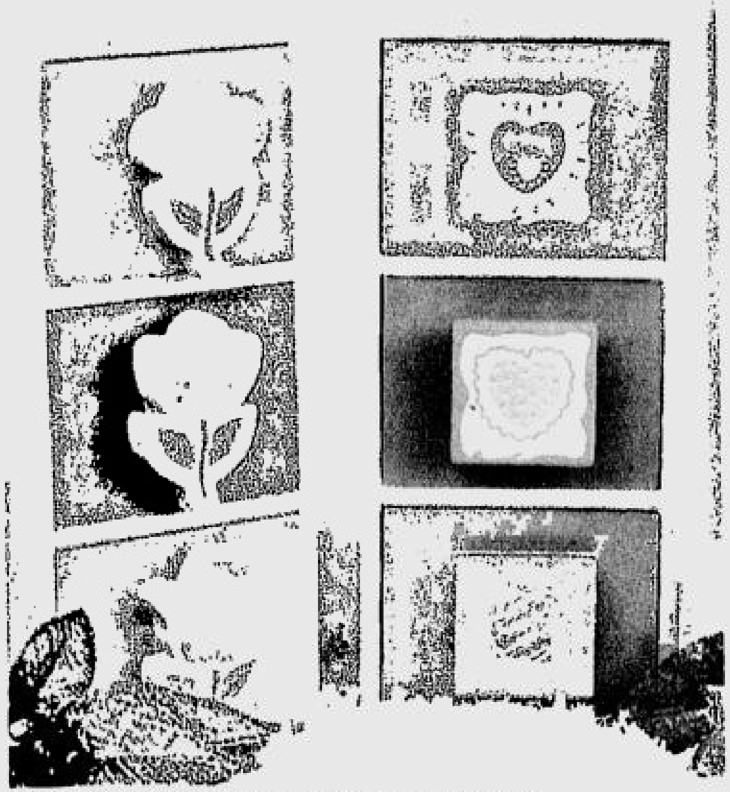
KIDDIE porcelain jewelry box

CUDDLY Christmas bears and holiday-inspired mugs to warm your cold nights this holiday season

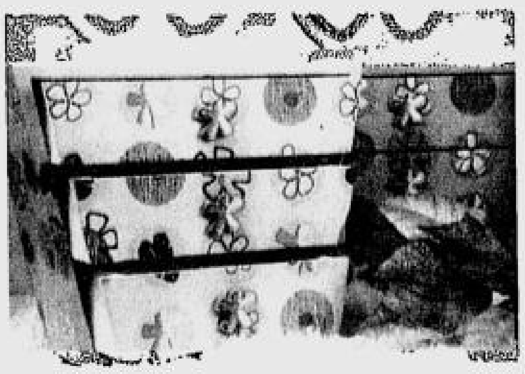
Kids' stuff

CUDDLY Santa bears on mugs, pretty princesses for dresser accents, boxes shaped like houses, rockets and cabinets for kid stuff, and fun picture frames are just some of the cute gifts for today's kids at SM.

The holiday gift items are available at the Children's Accessories Department of all SM stores.



COLORFUL cute box with floral and heart handles



A LITTLE place to put your little girl's things

Affordable party packages

CHRISTMAS parties can be a logistical nightmare at home or in the office. Planning, cooking and inviting your guests can be tedious, and if you don't watch out, it can wreak havoc on your budget. Not to worry, Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits will give you a hand this Christmas season with its all-convenient and delicious Popeyes Christmas Party Package. It will help make your Christmas celebration a truly notable treat with succulent chicken servings rich with Cajun flavor and at highly affordable prices.

All you have to do is call the bulk order and catering team of Popeyes at 8922371 or 8170711.

For as low as P55 per head, you can serve a filling meal at your Christmas party. Package A comes with one piece chicken, rice or biscuit and Fun Chum; Package B, one piece chicken, rice or biscuit, regular side dish and Fun Chum; Package C, three pieces chicken strip, rice or biscuit, regular side dish and Fun Chum; Package D, two pieces of chicken, rice or biscuit, regular side dish and Fun Chum. Just add P10 to get a softdrink in can.

AGLAONEMA

Green gifts everyone will love

IF you are having trouble deciding what to give somebody this Christmas, why not give a plant? Chito Bertol, president and general manager of the Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, said plants were always appreciated probably because they symbolized life and love. Plant shops in the center are currently holding a pre-Christmas sale.

There is usually a plant or two to match the different types of personalities of recipients. A cacti dish garden, for instance, can be given to a busy person while people who like cooking should have potted herbs.

Roses are for the romantic while people who like to keep busy can have materials for bonsai or topiary.

A pack of vegetable seeds, fertilizers, tools, hydroponic kit or even vegetable seedlings grown in hydroponic media will be practical Christmas gifts for the vegetable lover or vegetarian gardener.

Make your gift plants more attractive by putting them in fancy and decorative boxes or baskets made of *banig*, wicker, *buntal* or *buri* accented with ribbons or sachets made of organza, lamé, tulle, *sinamay*, ramie, abaca rope or even strips of bright cloth.

Get your plants from the various nurseries and plant shops inside the Manila Seedling Bank Environment Center, Quezon Ave. cor. Edsa, QC.

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CLEAR SMOOTH
AQUA FEELING GEL FOUNDATION

OUR FIRST AQUA-GEL FOUNDATION
FOR A SMOOTH, SHINE-FREE FINISH

Watery fresh light feel
pores and redness are evenly covered.
Smoothly blends and fits your skin
while shine catcher system
clears away the excessive sebum.

Oil-free, SMOOTH, EVEN, transparent
clear skin is completed.

Formulated for Asian skins with
Maybelline's latest technology.

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Vika is wearing Clear Smooth Gel Foundation Shade No. 11

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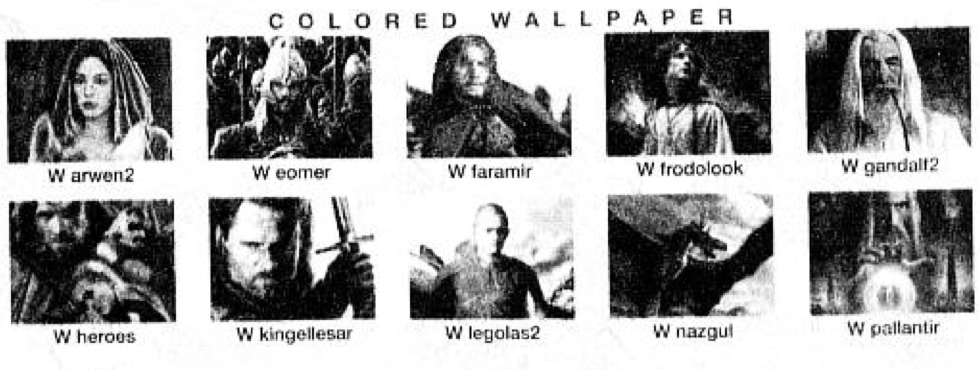

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Sunday LifeStyle

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Do you have a Christmas tradition?

WE'RE curious. What do you do every year at Christmastime? What Yuletide traditions do you hold dear to your hearts and practice to this day, whether as a family or as an individual?

Write us an essay about your Christmas traditions in 3,000 characters or less (not more than 400 words). E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Or fax to 897-4793, attention Lifestyle. Or send by post to PDI, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City. Or hand-deliver to the PDI office corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for submission is midnight of Dec. 16. A photograph of your traditional family Christmas will increase your chances of winning.

The first prize winner can shop for *noche buena* worth P10,000 at Rustan's Supermarket. Second prize is an overnight stay in a deluxe room at the Westin Philippine Plaza and dinner for a family of six at Cafe Plaza's longest buffet. Third prize is P3,000 worth of call cards.

Winning essays will be published in this section.

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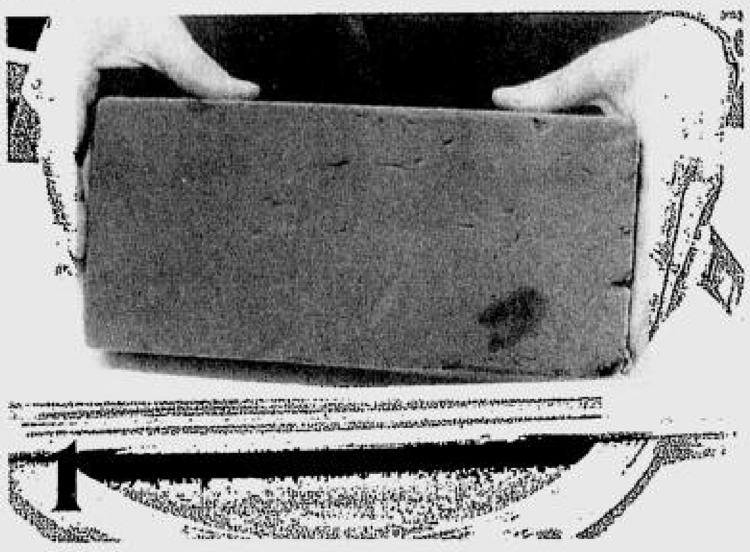
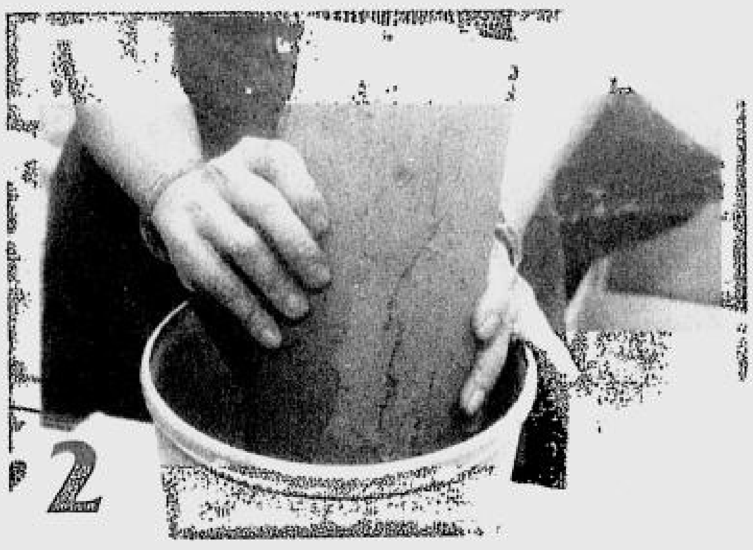
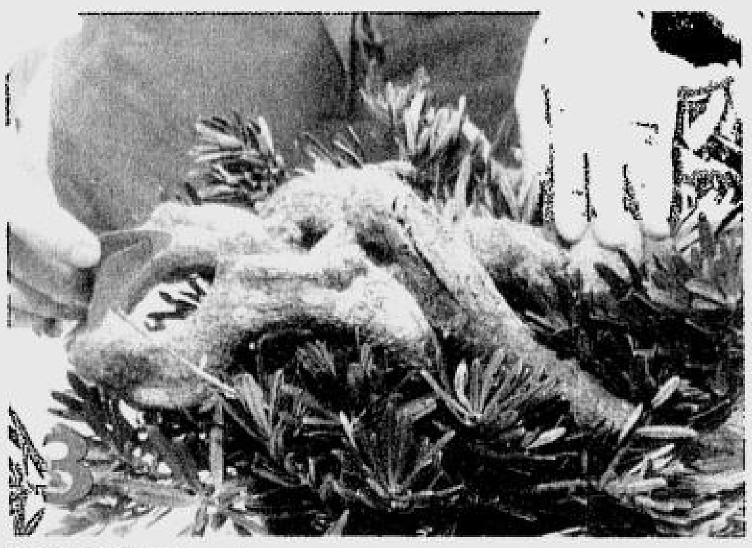
your skin had
this much
shimmer.



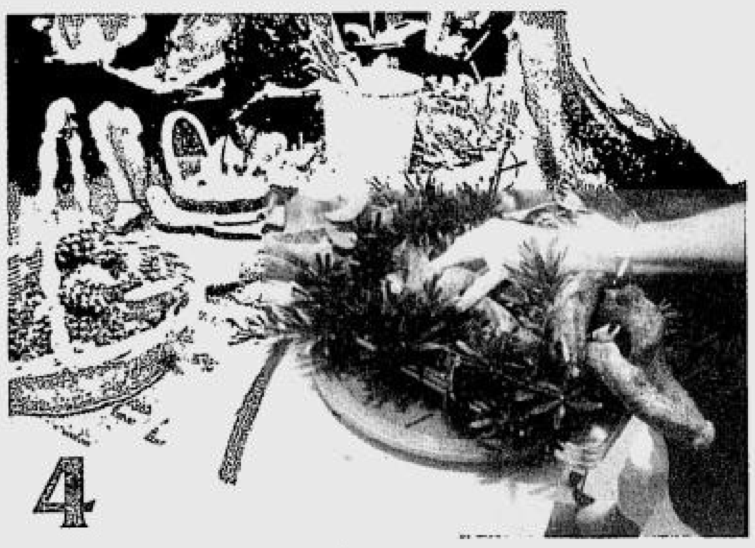
PREPARE size of floral foam to fit vase.



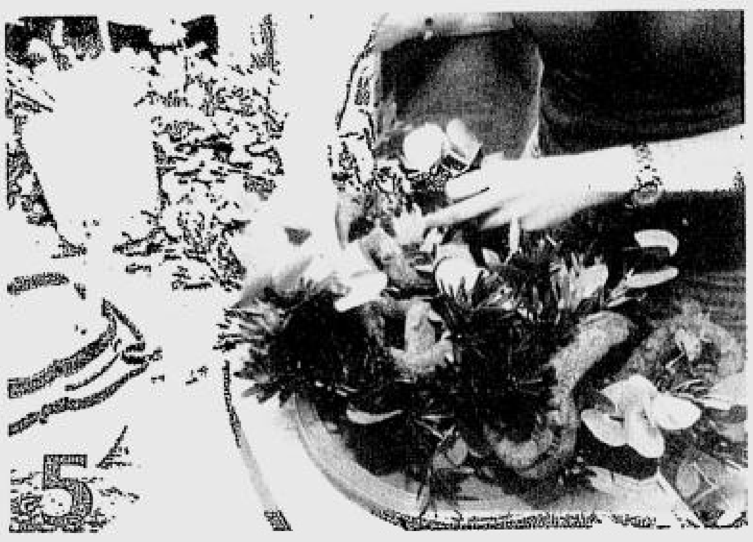
SOAK to absorb material.



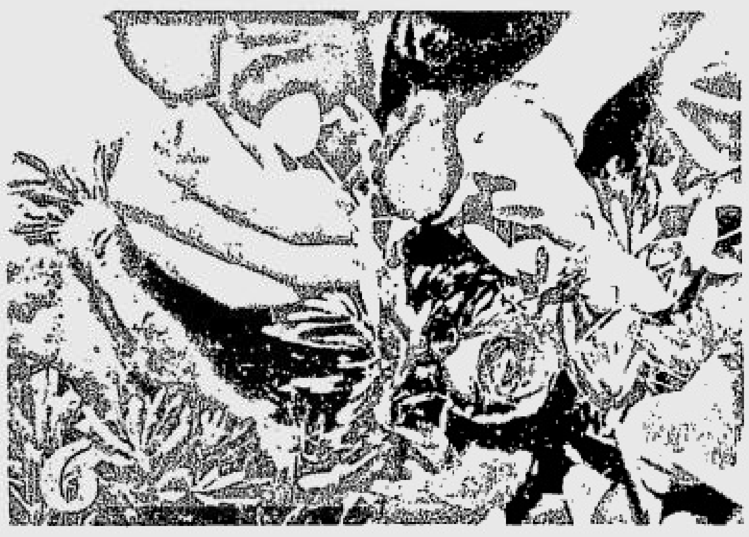
POSITION driftwood.



AFTER trimming ferns, arrange them around the driftwood with stems inserted in the foam.



AFTER trimming the eucalyptus, insert in the foam.

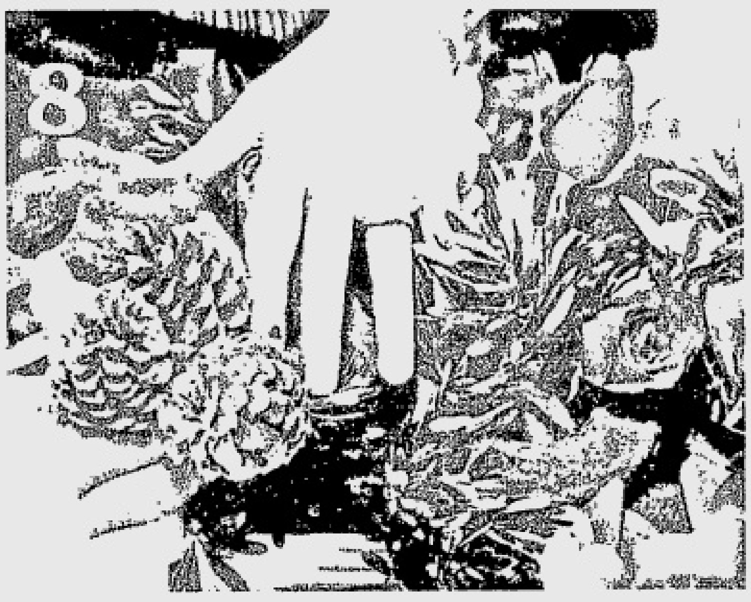


ARRANGE roses on the foam after cutting their stems to desired length.

Star of the feast

Perk up your family's big holiday dinner with your own unique centerpiece

ATTACH pine cones on stick and cover with floral tape.



SECURE pine cones with wire and insert on the arrangement.

STEP BY STEP

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

CREATING a centerpiece for a big holiday dinner is a real challenge, especially if you've extended your dining table to seat aunts and uncles, their broods and relatives four times removed.

Small bouquets get lost on a crowded tabletop, while oversized arrangements get in the way of conversations and spill over into plates.

To make a Christmas centerpiece suitable for that big dinner, what you need are long, narrow containers you can fill with greenery and flowers trimmed well below eye level, says Roberta Araneta, holder of a certificate in floral design from Parsons School of Design in New York and owner of Pleasantries flower shop (tels. 8997447/0916-4620217), located at 434 Adalla St., Palm Village, Makati.

"Something wonderful happens when you fill them (containers) with living plants and trim with a festive ribbon. Instantly, you have a centerpiece elegant enough to grace any table," she says.

Since most of us don't have the time to create complicated flower arrangements during the holidays, the Christmas centerpiece will have to survive the season with minimal upkeep.

Araneta advises creating a background of candles, miniature lights, dried leaves and long-lasting greenery. Then add easy-to-change fresh flowers and foliage as accents.

"Cluster flowers to help create impact and drama. Arrange the foliage as (close as possible to the way) nature had them to achieve a natural effect," she adds.

In her sample arrangement, the stems of the flowers are tucked into a driftwood concealed in the greenery.

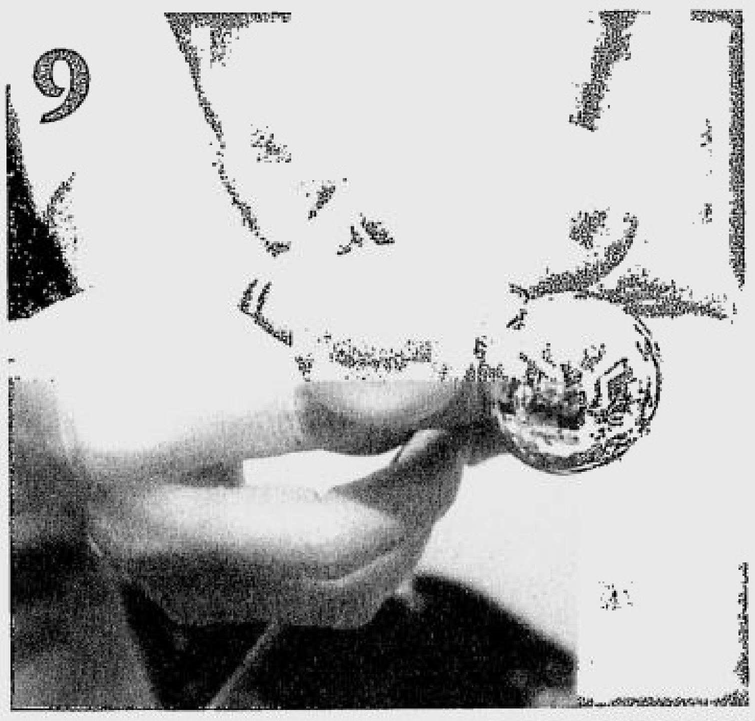
Araneta advises constantly spraying the flowers and foliage while working on the arrangement, to keep them looking fresh.

Once the arrangement is done, you can change the flowers and fresh foliage as often or as seldom as you want.

Materials:

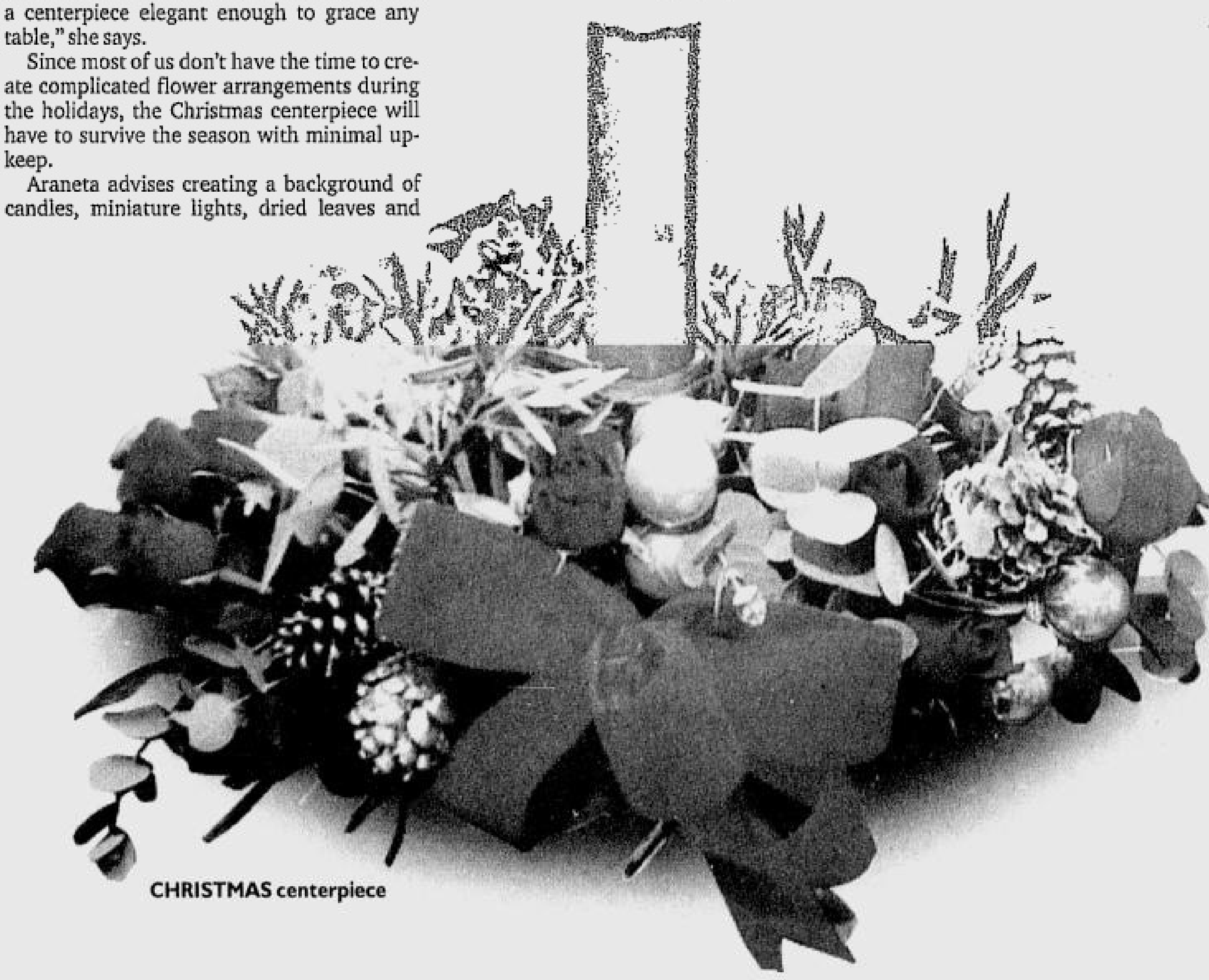
Tree branch or woody bundles
Floral foam brick
Bunch of red roses
2 different kinds of foliage
Christmas ornaments
Ribbon or candle
Wire

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

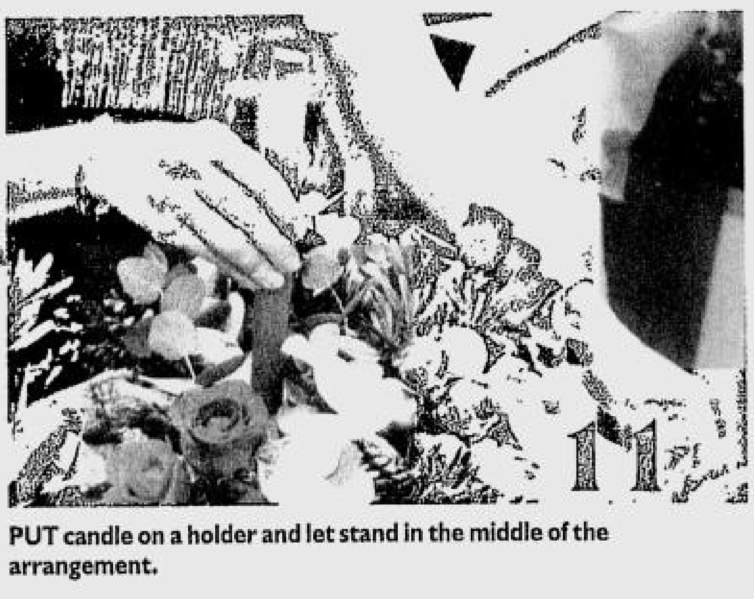


ARRANGE Christmas balls on stick.

MAKE a ribbon bow and attach to the flower arrangement.



CHRISTMAS centerpiece



PUT candle on a holder and let stand in the middle of the arrangement.

Start your own Christmas family traditions

FEASTING on ham and queso de bola, waking up to a stocking full of candies and presents, downing warm *puto bumbong* and *salabat* on a nippy evening after mass, visits to *lolo* and *lola*—these are just some of the nice memories we have of Christmas. It's a good idea to pass these long-held practices to the next generation.

Here are some ideas for family activities you can begin doing now:

- Dress up a Christmas tree. Give it a quaint, Pinoy twist by choosing one made of twigs. Decorate the tree with the whole family at the start of the season. Trimmings need not be expensive. Hang cut-outs and pictures of family members and loved ones with wishes and messages for each. Don't forget to top the tree with a star! You can make each child feel special by assigning a different one to do the honors each year.
- Deck the halls. If your family decides not to have a tree, you can still fill your homes with the Christmas spirit by using wreaths, trimmings and ornaments. Even better, make your own Christmas decorations! Gather your children and teach them how to make *parol* and other decor.
- Go caroling. Have your children go around the neighborhood with other kids and help spread some Christmas cheer. Help them make their own instruments like tin cans and rattles made from flattened bottle caps.
- Cooking lessons. While baking traditional Christmas fare like cookies, fruit cake and food for the gods, ask your kids to help you with simple tasks like mixing batter or kneading cookie dough.
- Do some end-of-the-year housecleaning. Guide your kids in gathering all the things that they don't need or have outgrown but are still in good condition—toys, clothes, shoes. Then, pack these off to orphanages, homes, and other charitable institutions. You'll teach your children to care for others, you'll let others have their own nice memories, and it's a little act of kindness that won't ask much from you.
- Attend Simbang Gabi with the whole family. Many associate the Simbang Gabi with *bibingka* and a nice *painit* of hot chocolate or coffee to warm against the chill of the pre-dawn air. For others, this annual observance is a time of warm friendship and family closeness. The lights, lanterns, and songs of the season warm the heart and give people hope, even in the harshest of times. Above all else, the Simbang Gabi is a time to celebrate the presence of God.
- Send cards. Pick out greeting cards with your kids to send and have them write their own messages. Go to the post office and mail the cards. It's a good opportunity for them to express themselves and improve their writing skills.

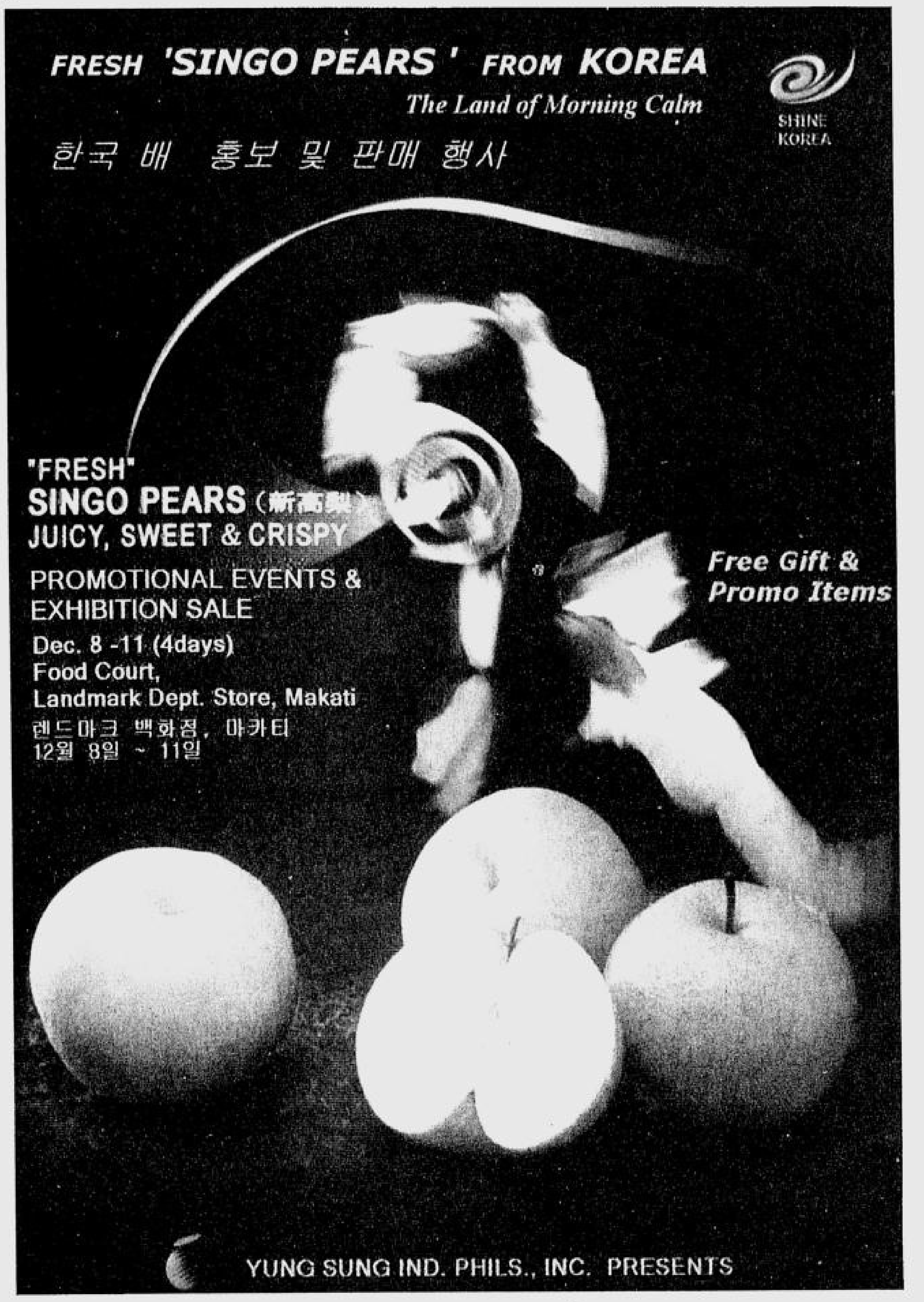
Make this season special with heartwarming messages from Hallmark Cards, available at all National Book Store branches and other leading retail outlets nationwide.

Giant Xmas tree brings cheers to Pampanga mall

ROBINSONS Starmills Pampanga will be the site of a beautiful Christmas tree measuring over 100 feet. This Christmas display will be installed at the Mall's Arayat Gate parking area and will be formally lighted tonight, 7 p.m., with the honorable Dr. Rey Aquino, mayor of San Fernando leading the rites.

Together with Coke, Robinsons Malls undertook the construction of this giant tree designed by Trees Company. Modern in design, this tree will be decked with foot-long angels and dwarfs, lighted with thousands of incandescent bulbs, tivoli lights and spot lights and topped with a magnificent Star of David.

Dessa, together with The CompanY, will be performing during the ceremonial lighting.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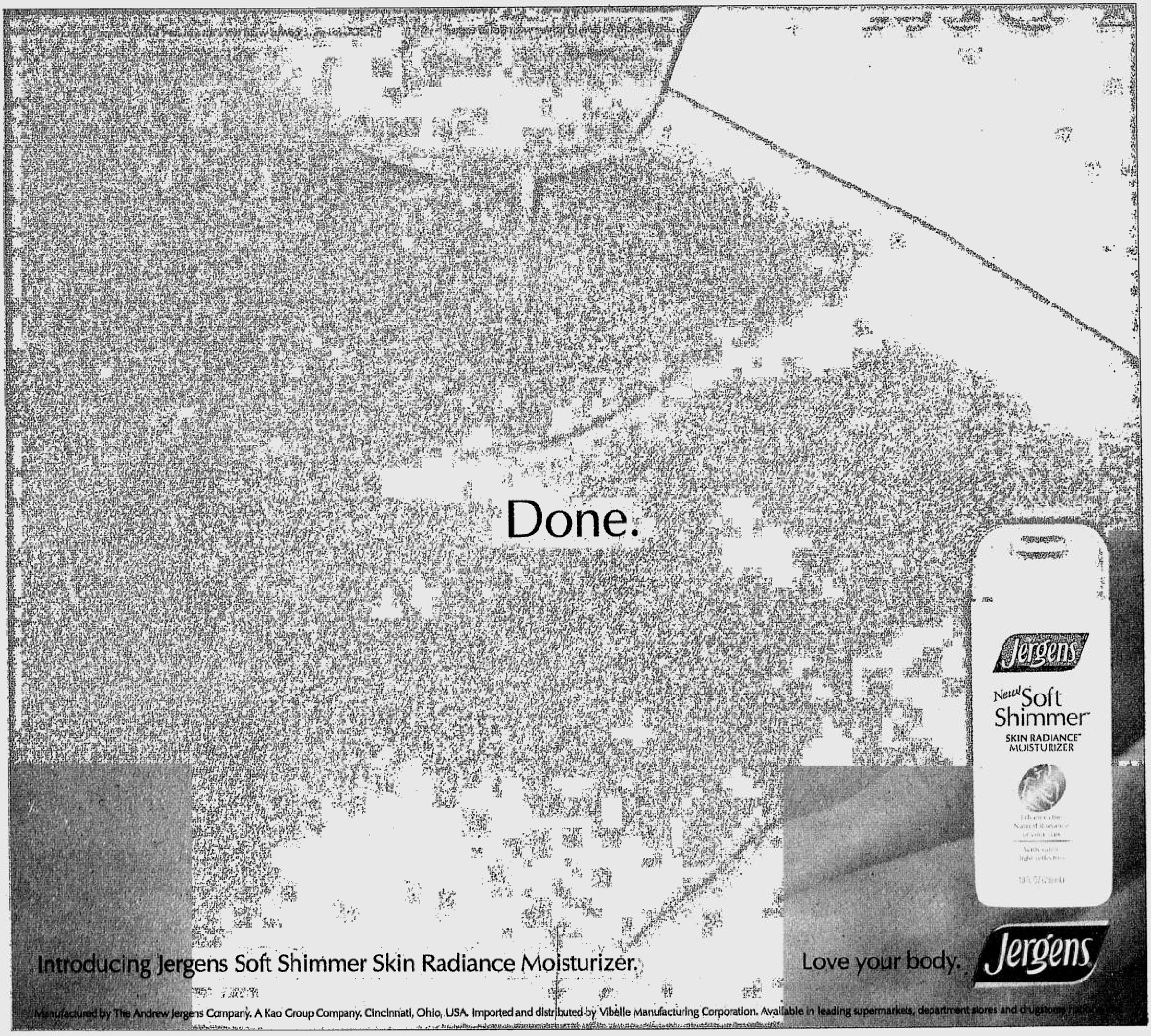
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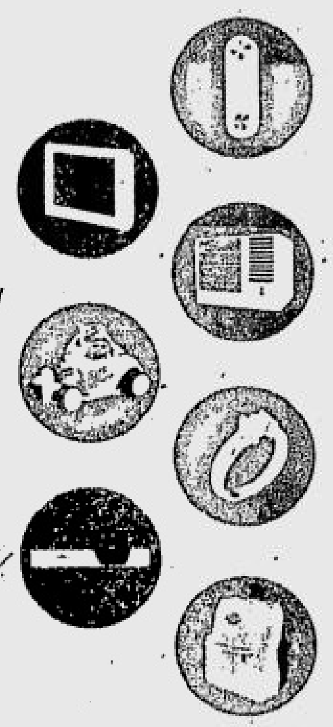

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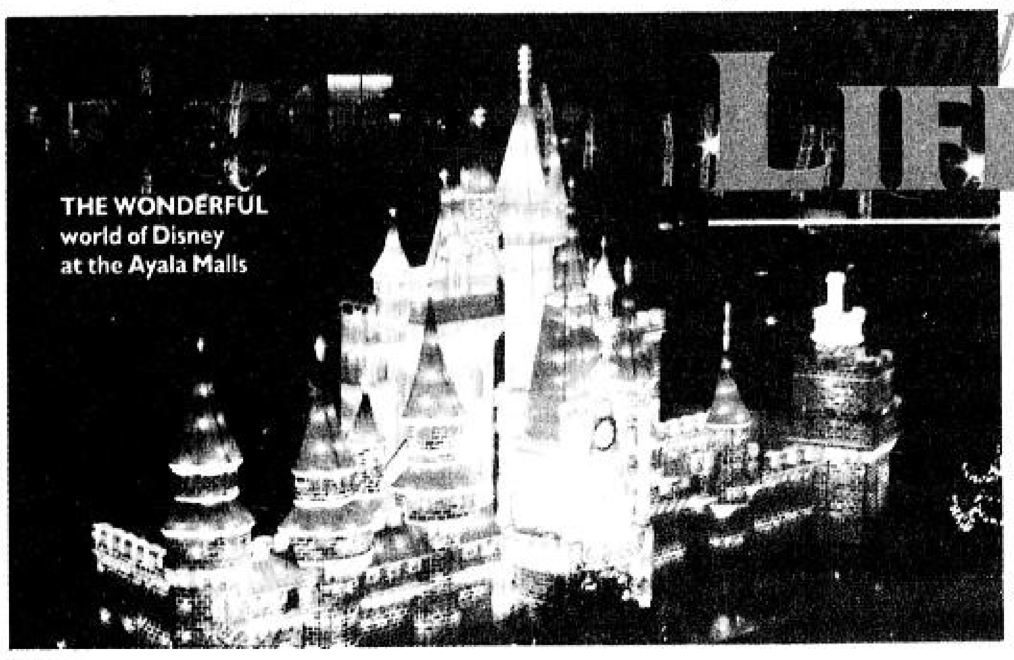

THE WONDERFUL world of Disney at the Ayala Malls

Youngsters' yuletide

Metro shopping centers have arranged special treats for kids for the holidays

By Cheche V. Moral

THE FAUX tree festooned in glittering tinsel, the twinkle of a thousand lights, the fat bearded man in a red suit, the family reunions and the attendant banquets, the melodious carols, the joyous warmth in the chilly air, the presents, presents and presents—all of these create wonderful memories in kids that may make adults nostalgic of Christmases past.

Or is it the other way around? Enthusiasm for Christmas may wane as people grow older, when dressing up the plastic tree may become tedious, when they can't look beyond gift-giving but as a mere strain to their budgets, when they dismiss the fat bearded man in a red suit as nothing

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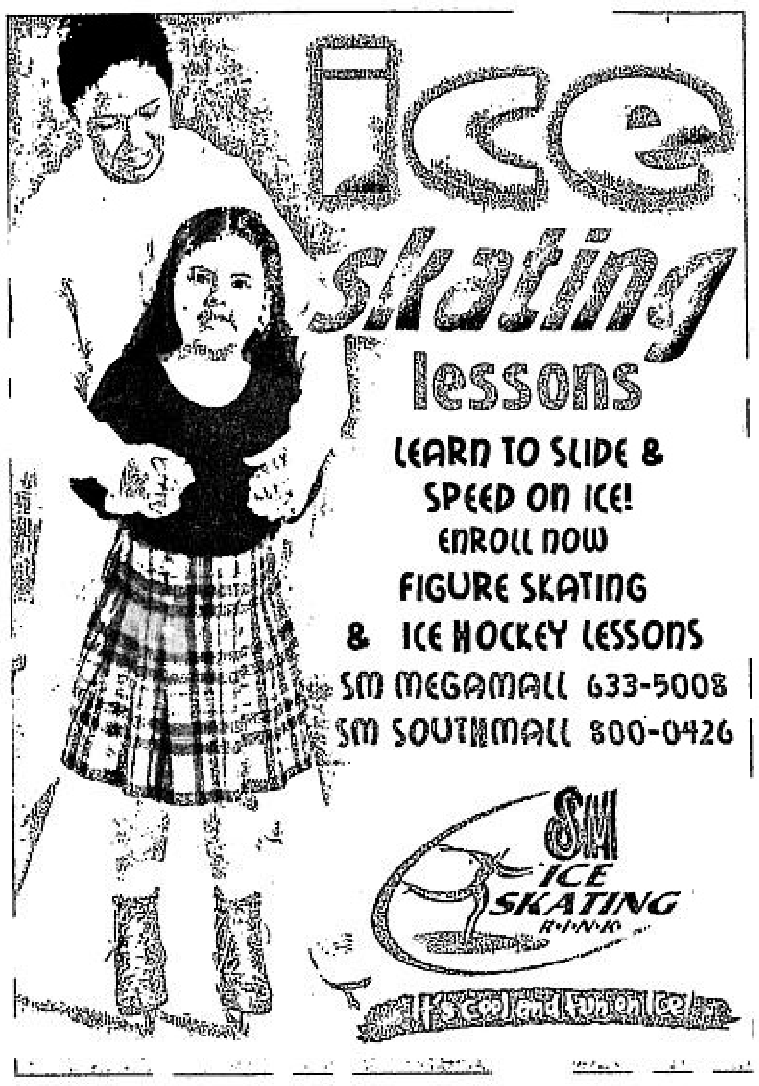

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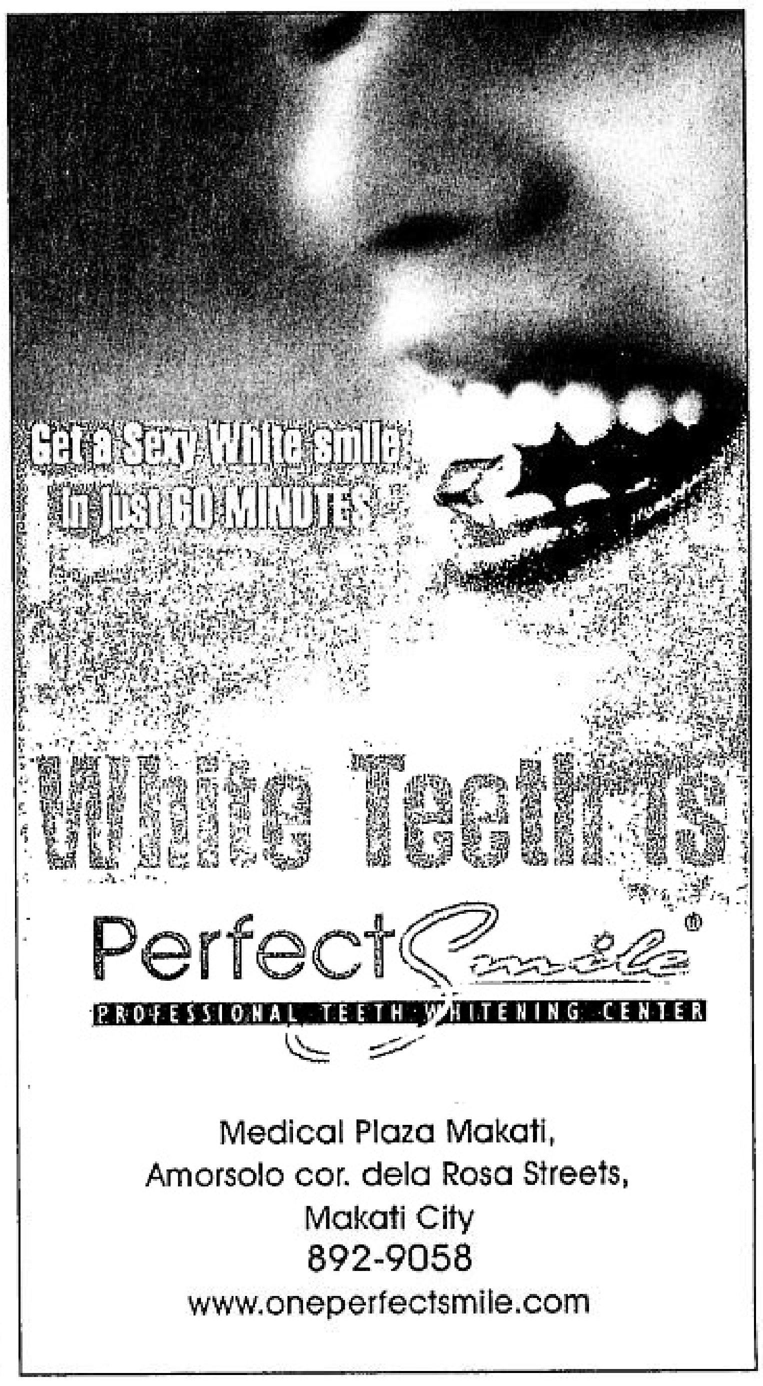

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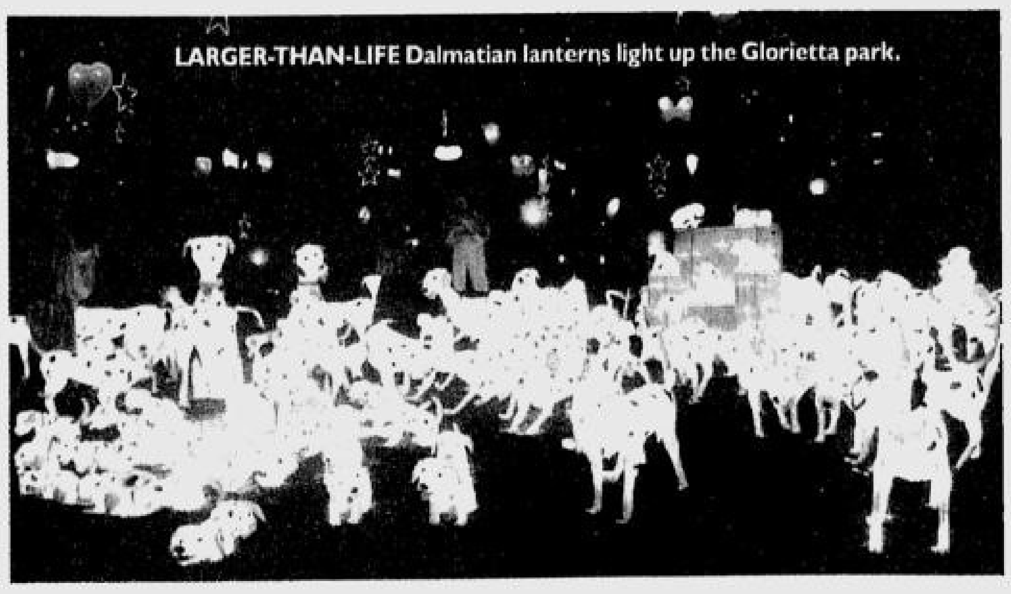


LARGER-THAN-LIFE Dalmatian lanterns light up the Glorietta park.

Youngsters' yuletide

From page F1

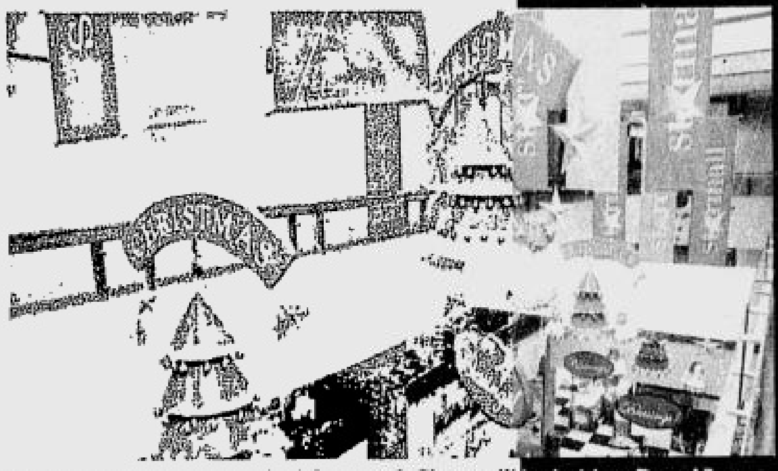
more than a kid's fantasy.

Ah, but what we would give to be young again! Just because we've become indifferent to the season doesn't mean children should be robbed of the chance to be, well, kids. Just because we've lost the spirit doesn't mean they should.

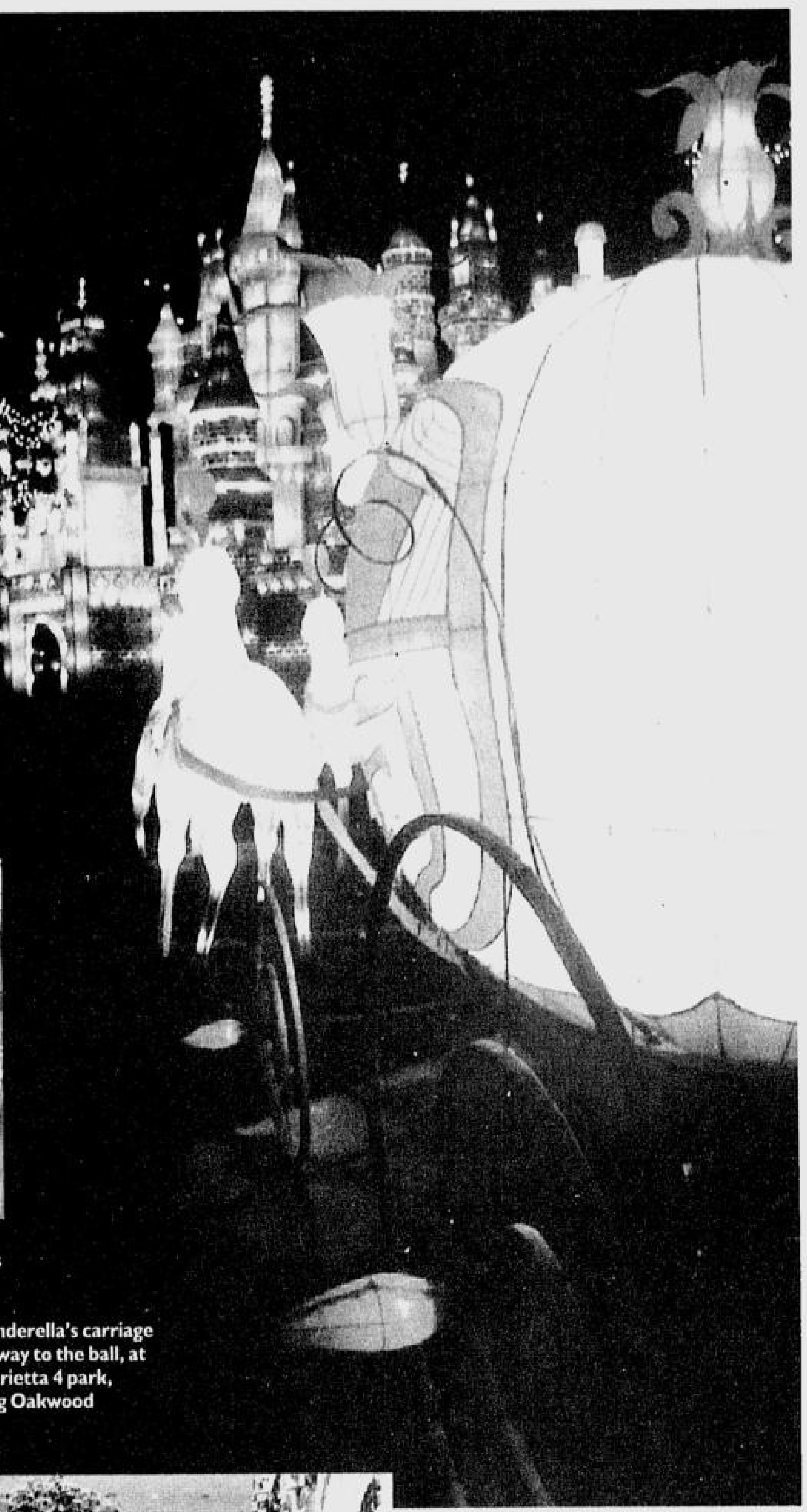
This Christmas, a bevy of activities especially for kids are lined all over the metro. They are occasions for young people to make their own marvelous memories.

It's a Christmas fairy wonderland at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 633-7851). The shopping haven is adorned with magical fairies and other woodland-inspired ornaments. At the mall's center is a gigantic 45-foot tree lighted with thousands of tivoli lights where kids can have their photos taken. Musical performances by school choirs, pop artists, and the world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers will delight the young. There will also be dance performances and plays.

The wonderful world of Disney takes over the Ayala Malls as larger-scale lanterns featuring Mickey and Co. and the 102 Dalmatians light up the malls' parks. Fireworks light up the night skies in Glorietta 4, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu on various dates until Dec. 30.



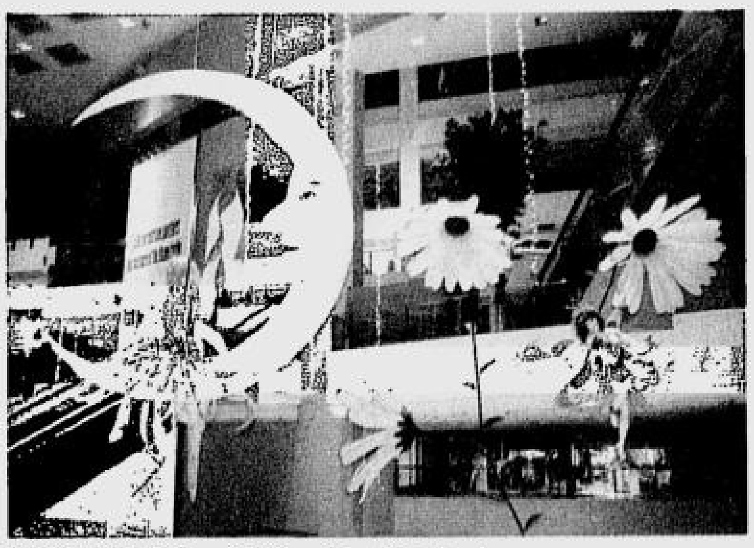
THE CHRISTMAS Carnival Outreach Show will be held on Dec. 13 at Star Mall in Mandaluyong, for the benefit of the Children of White Cross and Tahanang Walang Hagdanan.



IT'S Cinderella's carriage on the way to the ball, at the Glorietta 4 park, fronting Oakwood

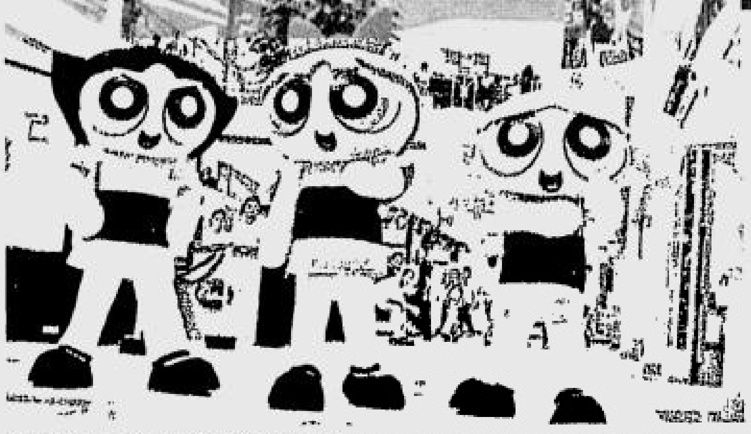
Acromania, an international acrobatic act from Australia, performs at certain hours of the day in Ayala Center Makati on Dec. 7-9, Alabang Town Center on Dec. 12-14 and Ayala Center Cebu on Dec. 19-21.

These are occasions for the young to create their own marvelous memories

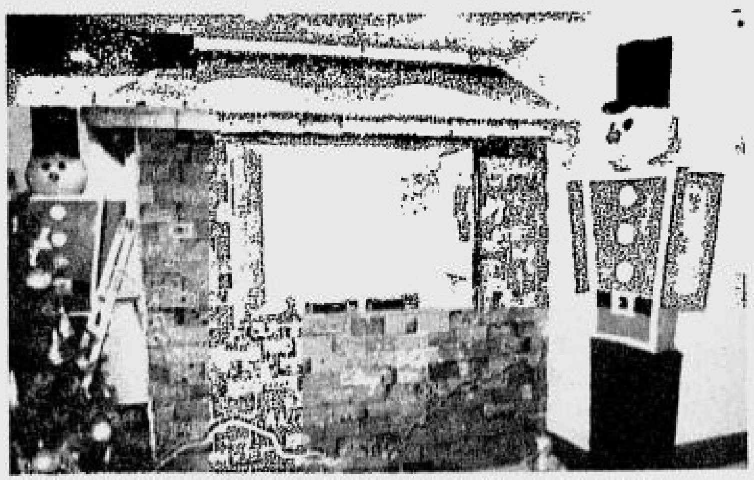


SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall is a virtual fairyland...

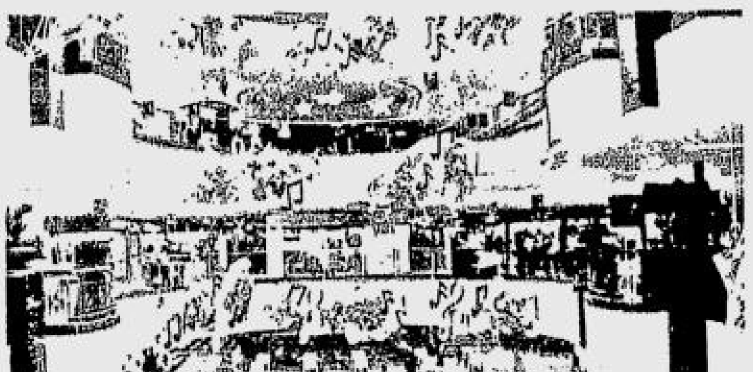
... WITH a giant Christmas tree bedecked with woodland-inspired ornaments, and a flower garden as its base.



MEET the crime-fighting trio of Buttercup, Blossom and Bubbles at the Robinsons Malls.



IT'S gingerbread house-making at the Palms Country Club in Alabang.



THE AIR is absolutely festive inside (above) and outside (below) the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Santa in the flesh

At SM Malls' Storyland (tel. 831-8000), kids get their wish as they meet, greet and pose with Santa (SM Southmall on Dec. 21 and 25; SM Fairview on Dec. 14 and 20). Christmas tales will be told by Story Wizards (Dec. 13 and Jan. 1 and 4 at SM Southmall and Dec. 27 and Jan. 1 and 4 at SM Fairview) while a Yule puppet show will breathe life into the season's characters on Dec. 24 and Jan. 12 at SM Southmall. A grand Christmas parade with fun games and surprises will entertain families at SM Fairview on Dec. 20 and SM Southmall on Dec. 21.

The Powerpuff Girls, Johnny Bravo, Dexter, Mojo Jojo and other Cartoon Network characters will entertain young mall-goers at the Robinsons Malls (tel. 395-2507 or 687-5681) with concerts (Dec. 13, Robinsons Place Imus; Dec. 14 Dasmariñas; and Dec. 19, Metro East). The well-loved characters will also meet and greet their fans (Dec. 21 at Robinsons Place Lipa).

East of Manila, children can marvel at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's 30-ft Christmas tree and 200 lighted reindeer. On Dec. 12, a T-shirt painting contest will be held for kids ages 7-12. On Christmas Day, there will be magic show and a visit from Santa. A grand fireworks display and outdoor concert will cap the holiday festivities on Dec. 30.

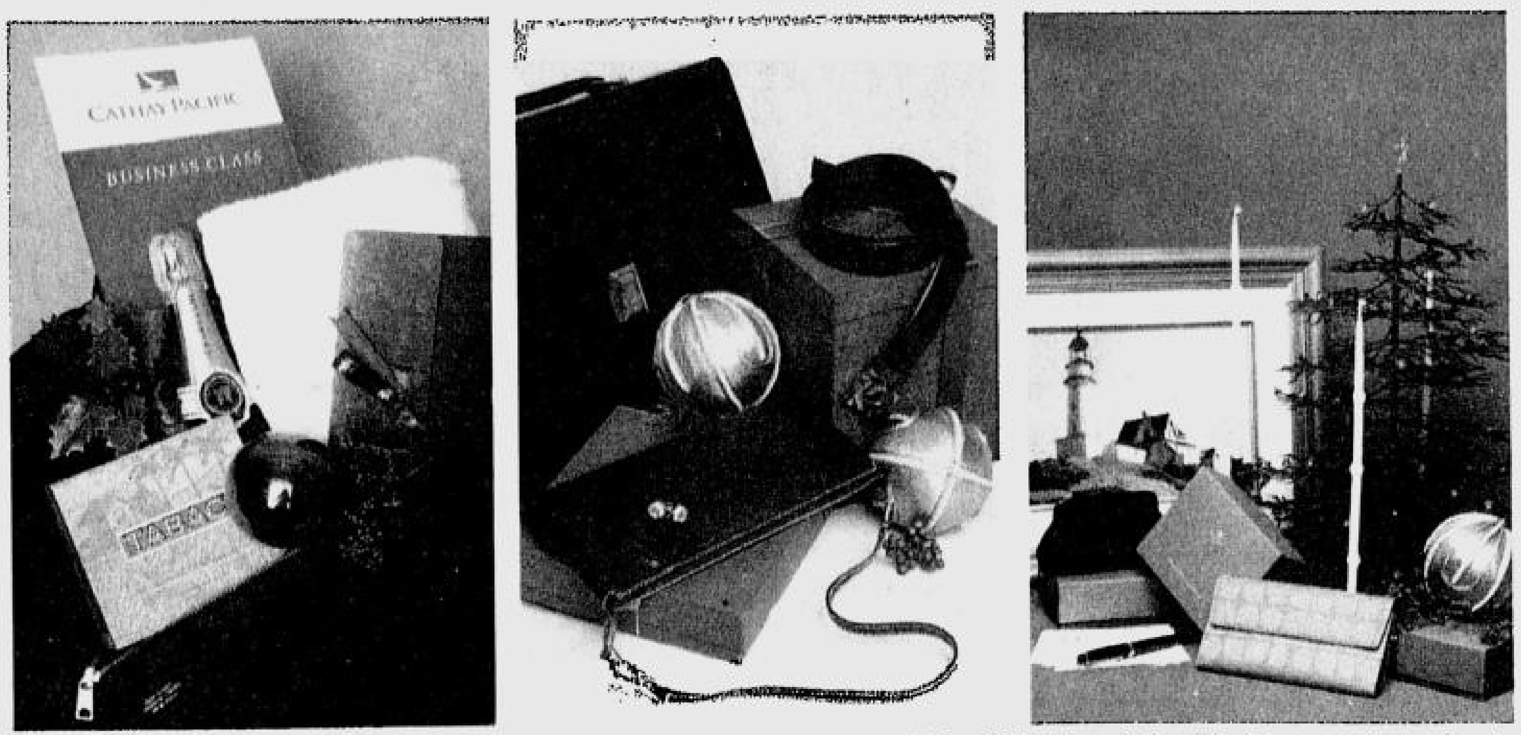
South of Manila, kids will be treated to a filmfest of 20 of the most-loved kiddie flicks for free at the Festival Supermall in Alabang (tel. 8503514). The world-renowned Loboc Children's Choir of Bohol will serenade families for two nights on Dec. 20 and 21. A musical called "The Grinchmas" will take center stage on Dec. 22 and 23 while storytelling and art workshops will be held on various dates.

Also in Alabang, at the Palms Country Club (tel. 771-7171), kids' eyes and tummies get filled as they create a gingerbread house on Dec. 13.

At Star Mall in Mandaluyong City, the grand finals of the Search for a Kiddie Star will be held on Dec. 13. An acoustic Christmas carol contest will be held on Dec. 20, while Santa Claus will say hello to youngsters on Dec. 13 and 21.

Even poor kids will get to enjoy the season as the Peninsula Manila (tel. 887-2888) holds the "Ultimate Peninsula Christmas Wish List" auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. With a minimum bid of P250,000, bidders can take home a goodie bag containing luxurious items to please even the fussiest recipient in their Christmas list. From business-class airline tickets to items from such brands as Cartier, Jewelmer, Prada, Hermes, Kate Spade, Kish, About Design, Ferragamo, among many others, the goodie bag is worth almost P1 million. Silent bidding is ongoing until 11:55 p.m. on Dec. 25.

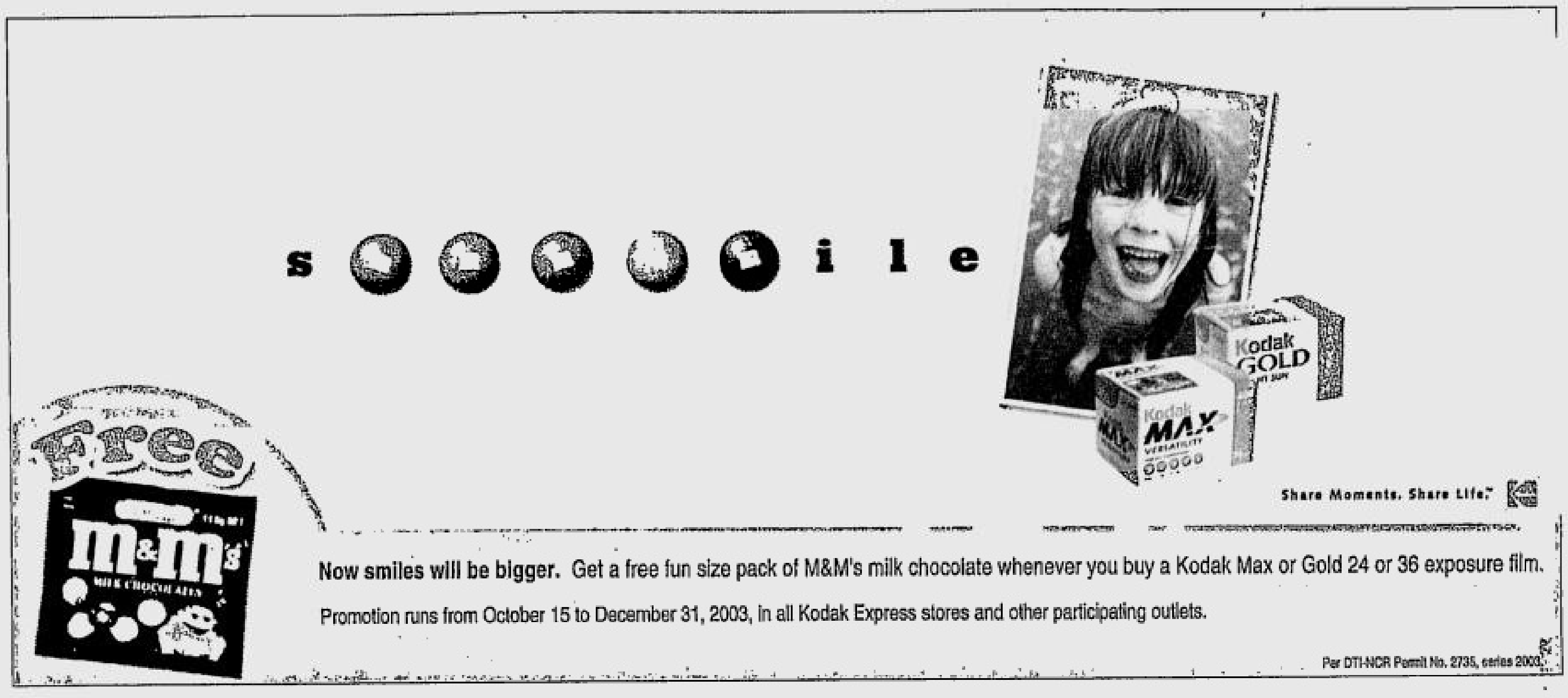
E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



PENINSULA Manila holds a silent auction of luxury goodies to benefit the children of Make-A-Wish Foundation. The lot, amounting to almost P1 million, contains, among others: (from left photo) Cathay Pacific round-trip business class tickets for two Manila-Hong Kong-Manila, His and Hers Peninsula bathrobes, Tabac glass-topped humidor and select cigars, The Peninsula Champagne Deutz, Jack Spade duffel; Cartier ladies belt, Salvatore Ferragamo ladies shoulder bag, Vie Nouvelle Jewelry topaz and diamonds ring and earrings set, Alfred Dunhill briefcase; About Design wrought iron Christmas tree, Kate Spade fold-over birthday cards, Kate Spade large wallet, Montblanc fountain pen, Prada leather and fabric coin purse and a Metropolitan Museum of Art repro. Bidding starts at P250,000. Call 8872888.

ALSO up for grab are: About Design narra “red tape organizer” by Claude Tayag, Kate Spade leather photo frame, Hermes Espace ladies watch, Jewelmer champagne South Sea pearl earrings set in 18-k gold and Chateau Palmer 1999 Margaux

CEREO urn-shaped candle, Pieneapple room and linen spray, Kish three-seater velvet sofa, Firma jeweled floor lamp with Venetian silk devoré lamp shade, emu egg, semiprecious stones Murano glass, etc.



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Promotion runs from October 15 to December 31, 2003, in all Kodak Express stores and other participating outlets.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2735, series 2003.

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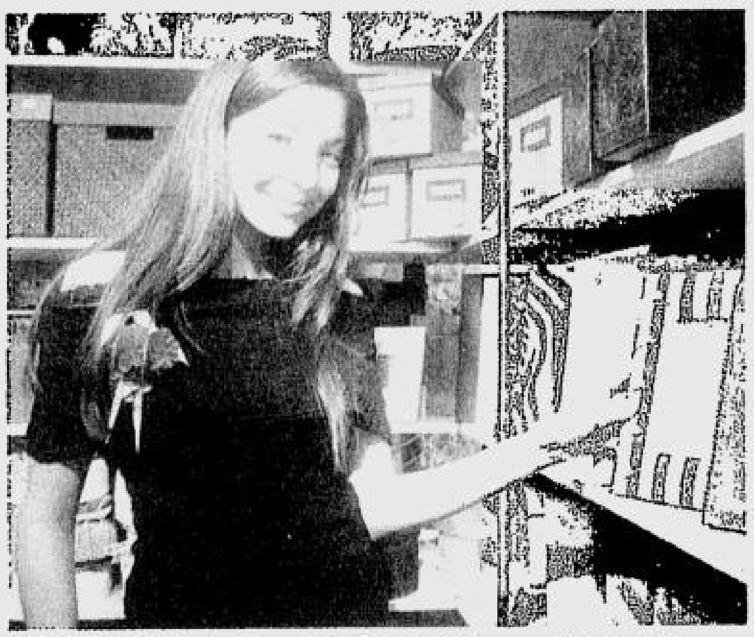
Bazaar features specialty products


AMANDA Griffin checks out the latest gift items available at the bazaar.

GLORIETTA features the best bargains in town with its annual Christmas bazaar.

Located on the 2/L Glorietta 3, the almost 300-sq-m bazaar was opened in simple ceremonies graced by "F" hosts Angel Aquino, Amanda Griffin and Daphne Oseña-Paez, assisted by Ayala Land's CJ Jesena and Melo Jalandoni.

Available for Christmas shoppers are specialty products and items from Serenity, Bluehand, Grass Roots, Gloanse, Balai Handicrafts, Friendlywood Crafts, Golden Seasons, m2c, Rings n' Things, Garden Scent, Country Favorites, Leonardo for Teens, Sifra Arts and Crafts, Wagas Crafts, CDR King, Aprils' Dream, Akita, Buma, Cubes Et Al, Noox, Miyo, Beads and Beyond, Eiko, Tita's Handcrafted Products, A Thousand Wishes, Jesuit Communications, Odyssey, Indo Treasures, Ani Ani Novelties, Blued 4 Kids, Happy Feet, Jeremy Looi and ZCS Marketing.

Glorietta's Christmas bazaar features not just gift possibilities, but food merchants as well like Love's Recipes, Sitsirya Sari-Sari, Bravo! Sauces, Cheesecake Melliza, Kitchen's Best, Adelina's Ham, House of Polvoron, Hungrypac, Polland Hopia, Johanna's House of Lumpia, JBS Trading's Hot Castañas, Dizon Farms, Marsha's and Pat Lin located at the Food Choices in Glorietta 4. The food sale of Christmas treats is until Jan. 15, 2004.

DAPHNE Oseña-Paez finds the best place to shop for affordable items at the Christmas bazaar in Glorietta 3.

ANGEL Aquino shops for Christmas décor at the bazaar.

SILVER jewelry

Village sale

ST. James the Great Christmas bazaar is ongoing until 9 p.m. today at the Cuenca covered court, Ayala Alabang Village.

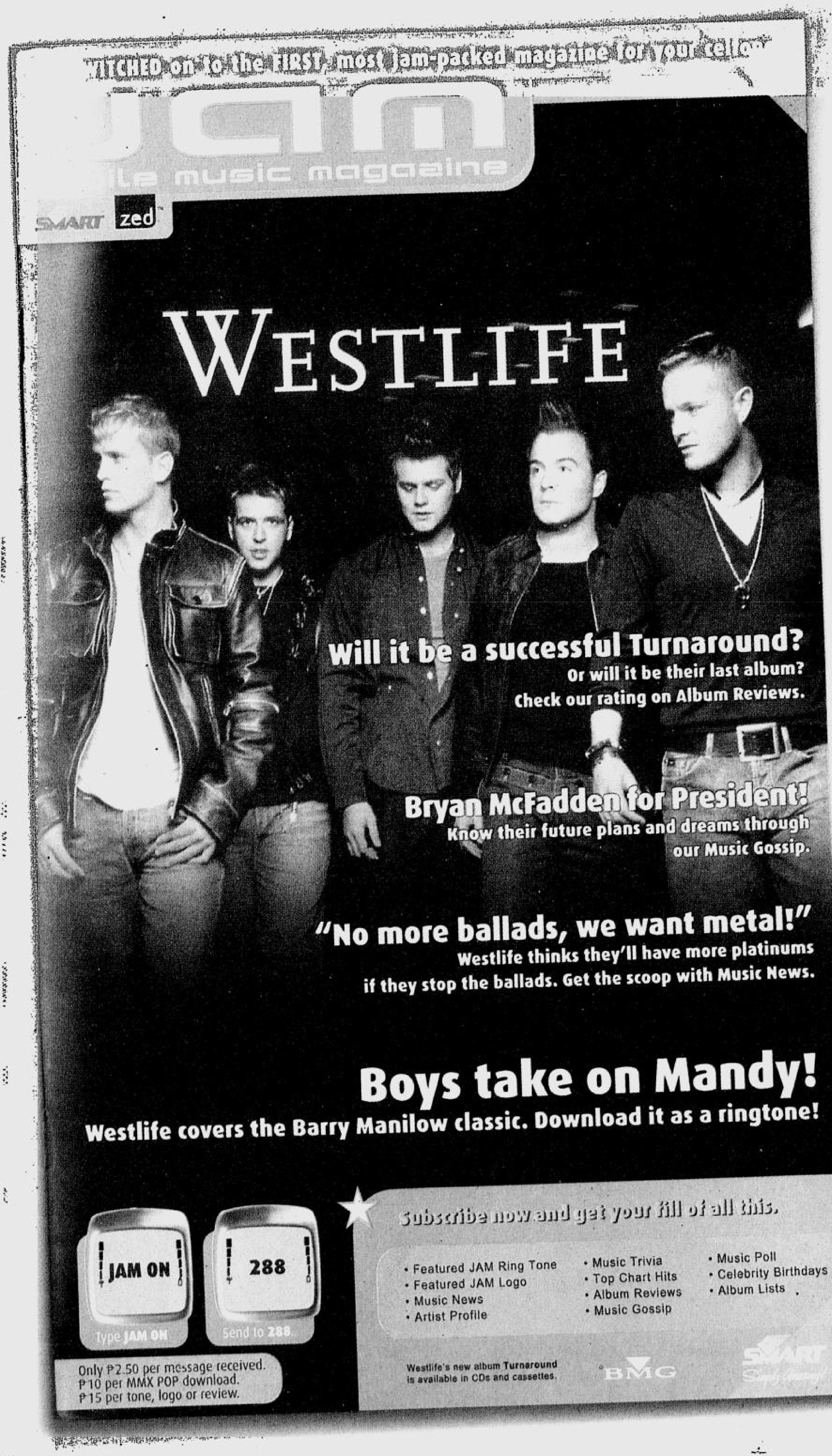
Products range from holiday foods, overruns of branded men's, ladies and children's clothes, Christmas décor, lacquerware, Filipino ethnic products and handicrafts, decorative candles, toys, shoes, native and imported bags, house decor, furniture, wrought iron items, paintings and many more.

The bazaar also features a Food Pavilion participated in by Las Paellas, Barrio Fiesta, Tapa King, Sbarro, Lydia's Lechon, Ellie's Roasted Calf, Serye Restaurant, Coolman Halo Halo, Oddballs and Taco Maker. Official drinks are Coca-cola and Viva water.

A 21-inch TV and other household appliances will be raffled off at the bazaar.

CERAMIC pottery

THE 5TH Angel Sent Bazaar will be held on Dec. 20-21 at the lower lobby of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The bazaar is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 8250804/ 3482. Shown above are Belgian chocolates from Theobroma, available at the bazaar.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Westlife's new album Turnaround is available in CDs and cassettes.

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Bigger prizes for Guyito contest

GUYITO bride and groom in wedding frocks by Jojie Lloren

DESIGN students and professionals as well as creative hobbyists have more reason to join "Guyito's Wedding March," the dress-up-the-INQUIRER-mascot competition.

Aside from having their work displayed alongside designs of Eddie Baddeo, Rhett Eala, Ben Farrales, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Bobby Novenario, Frederick Peralta, Eric Pineda, Inno Sotto and Patis Tesoro, cash prizes have also been raised.

Winners will now be taking home P25,000, first prize; P15,000, second prize; and P10,000 third prize.

The contest is presented by cbv7 Media Master and the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, with Metro Weddings I Do, Philippine Airlines, i-Kon Manila, Wave 89.1, Hallmark, Peninsula Manila, Weddings @ Work, Nurture Spa, Netopia and Cibo.

Those wanting to participate should buy a pair of Guyito dolls at the INQUIRER main office (PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City) at P350 to get one entry form. He/she must dress up the dolls in wedding ensembles (as bride and groom) of his own design.

Participants may submit as many entries as they want. Criteria for judging will be: relevance to the theme (30 percent), originality (30 percent) and creativity (40 percent).

Deadline for submission of entries has been extended to 6 p.m., Jan. 5, 2004. Judging will be on Jan. 7, 2004. Awarding of prizes will be at the "Wedding March at Glorietta" bridal fair on Jan. 11, 2004.

Winning entries will be published in the INQUIRER, and will be displayed with the Guyito masterpieces of 10 of Manila's top designers during the two-day fair.

Call the INQUIRER at 8978808 local 258 and 259, or cbv7 Media Master at 8096190.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila offers 10-course Chinese wedding packages.

Celebrate your big day with a Chinese lauriat

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila invites couples to explore the exceptional values of its two Chinese wedding packages—the Classic Lauriat and Grand Lauriat.

For as low as P9,999+ (subject to 10 percent service charge and applicable government tax) for every table of 10 persons (minimum of 20 tables), couples can have the Classic Lauriat package. It includes a Mercedes Benz bridal car, two-layered fondant wedding cake, floral centerpiece on each table, including the two VIP tables, decorated cage with doves, guest book, overnight accommodation in a bridal suite, room service breakfast for two, fruit basket upon check-in, reception room for traditional tea ceremony, bottle of sparkling wine for toasting, menu cards on each table, a special package rate for beverages, and special discounted rate for emcee and coordinator.

The Grand Lauriat is for those who wish to have all the trimmings. For as low as P12,999+ (subject to 10 percent service charge and applicable government tax) for every table of 10 (minimum of 25 tables), the couple will have a Mercedes Benz bridal car, a three-layered fondant wedding cake, a decorated cake table with cascading flowers, special floral arrangement for the ballroom, greens and fountain for the sponsors' table, decorated cage with doves, floral centerpieces for two VIP tables and the guest tables, guest book, two-night stay in a bridal suite, daily room service breakfast, fruit basket upon check-in, reception room for traditional tea ceremony, iced tea or fruit punch, bottle of sparkling wine for toasting, menu cards on each table, Chinese/English emcee or host, and interview portion with the couple.

The 10-course wedding banquet will be prepared by the Hua Ting chefs.

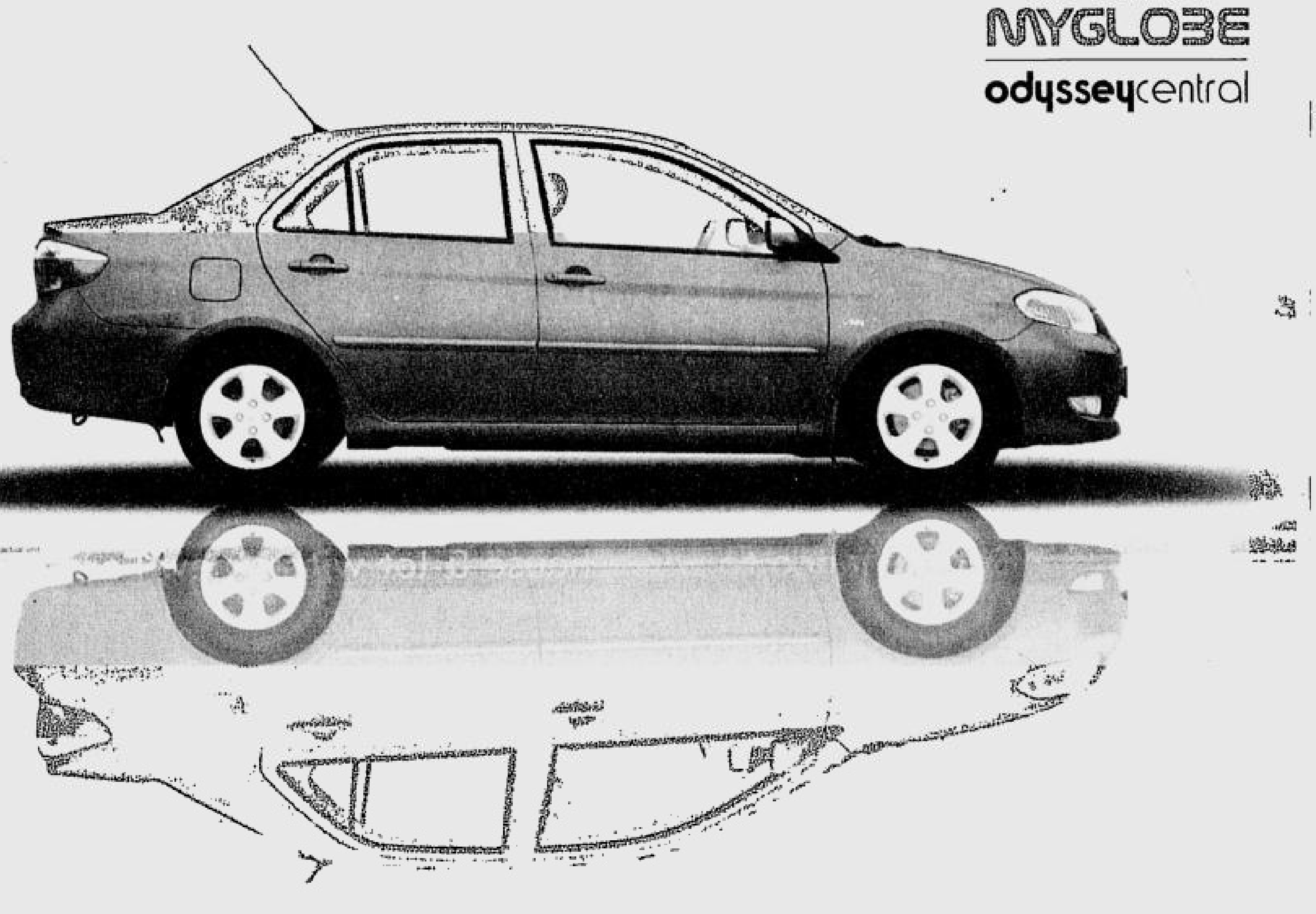
For people with special requirements, the hotel's staff can help tailor-fit everything according to the event's theme.

Call Banquet Sales at 8548680 or trunk line 8548888, extension 7215/7216/7204/ 7205.

Exhibit of wedding essentials

PHILTRADE Exhibits and its partners and allies have scheduled wedding exhibitions and trade shows for the first quarter of 2004. "Kasalan sa Pilipino" will be held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2004 at The Forum, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex in Pasay City. This is a marketing and promotion exhibition of the wedding essentials from the very best in the country. For the first time in wedding industry a "Couples Choice Awards" will be given to suppliers in the following category: Bridal Gown, Floral Design, Cakes, Photography, Caterers and The Couples Choice for Best Booth. The event is directed by the country's top event stylists, Henry Pascual.

Call 8250804/8253482.



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4. More to Life - Stacie Orrico	GM31	GP31
5. Tell Me - Ariel Rivera feat. Regine Velasquez	GM32	GP32
6. Nestlé Carito	GM6	GP6
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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

MEIM-TANALGO

Paul Niño L. Meim, son of the late Brig. Gen. **Eustaquio V. Meim** and **Leticia Leyran**, will exchange vows with **Mary Rose Tanalgo**, daughter of **Procopio Tanalgo** and **Amelia Solidum**, on Dec. 8.

Rev. Fr. **Daniel Dennis Meim**, SDB, will officiate the ceremony at St. James the Great Church, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

Aureo Alonzo will design the wedding ensemble.

FORMOSO-RAMOS

Patrick Anthony C. Formoso, son of **Jaime** and **Lourdes Formoso**, exchanged vows with **Joey Monica R. Ramos**, daughter of **Manolo** and **Wenefrida Ramos**, at the Santuario de San Antonio, Makati City. Reception followed at the Peninsula Manila.

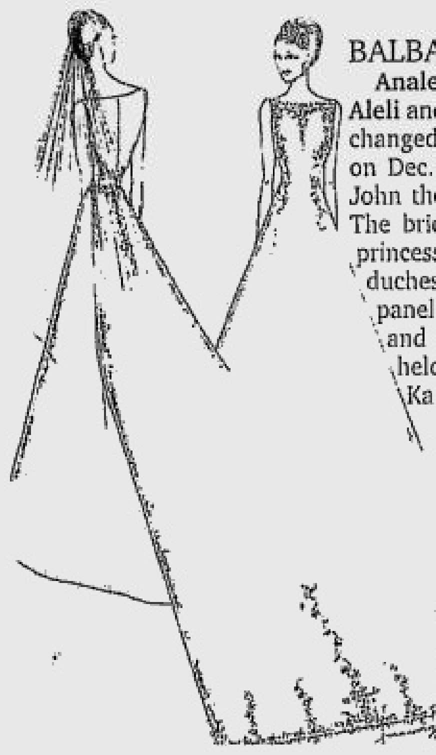
OLALIA-ALVARADO

Harold Olalia, son of lawyer **Benjamin** and Councilor **Natalia Olalia**, will exchange vows with **Lally Alvarado**, daughter of (ret.) Gen. **Rodolfo** and **Lorena Alvarado**, on Dec. 12 at St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Gamu, Isabela. Reception will follow at the garden of the Officers Clubhouse, Camp Melchor de la Cruz in Gamu.

The bride will wear a white satin A-line gown which features metallic beaded embroidery. The low asymmetrical back is adorned with three rosettes by David's Bridal, USA. The entourage will wear ensembles in apple red motif. Events is the wedding coordinator.

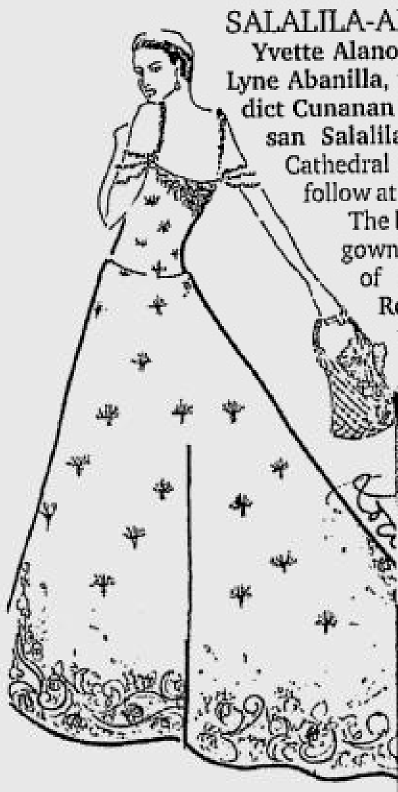
ALABASTRO-GONZALVO

Michael Anthony Generoso Alabastro, son of **Antonio** and **Cecilia Alabastro**, will tie the knot with **Christine Karaan Gonzalvo**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Evelyn Gonzalvo**, on Dec. 21 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception will follow at Pope John Paul the Second Youth Center.



BALBASTRO-REYES

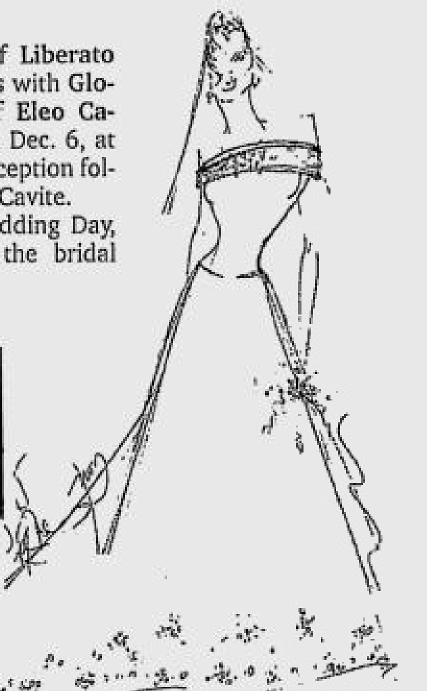
Analee Balbastro, daughter of **Aleli** and **Edito Ken Balbastro**, exchanged vows with **Heinje Reyes** on Dec. 6 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Kalibo, Aklan. The bride wore a **Jay Masangya** princess-cut gown in white duchess satin with a three-meter panel train embellished with cut and rice beads. Reception was held at the Teranova Garden in Kalibo.



SALALILA-ABANILLA

Yvette Alano Abanilla, daughter of **Vic** and **Lyne Abanilla**, will exchange vows with **Benedict Cunanan Salalila**, son of **Benny** and **Susan Salalila**, on Dec. 13, at the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros. Reception will follow at the Coconut Palace.

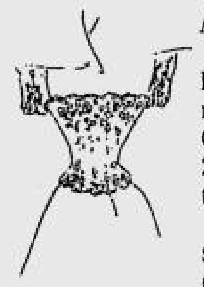
The bride will wear an ecru silk gazar gown with a five-meter train and rows of Swarovski-encrusted straps by **Rodelle Arre**. The female entourage will wear gowns in sunset-orange motif.



PAREDES-CAMARINO

Romulo C. Paredes, son of **Liberato Sarno**, exchanged marital vows with **Gloria S. Camarino**, daughter of **Eleo Camarino** and **Frisea Garces**, on Dec. 6, at Unida Church, Imus, Cavite. Reception followed at Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

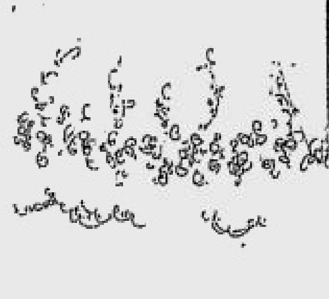
Paul Rex Mateo of The Wedding Day, Imus, designed and created the bridal gown.

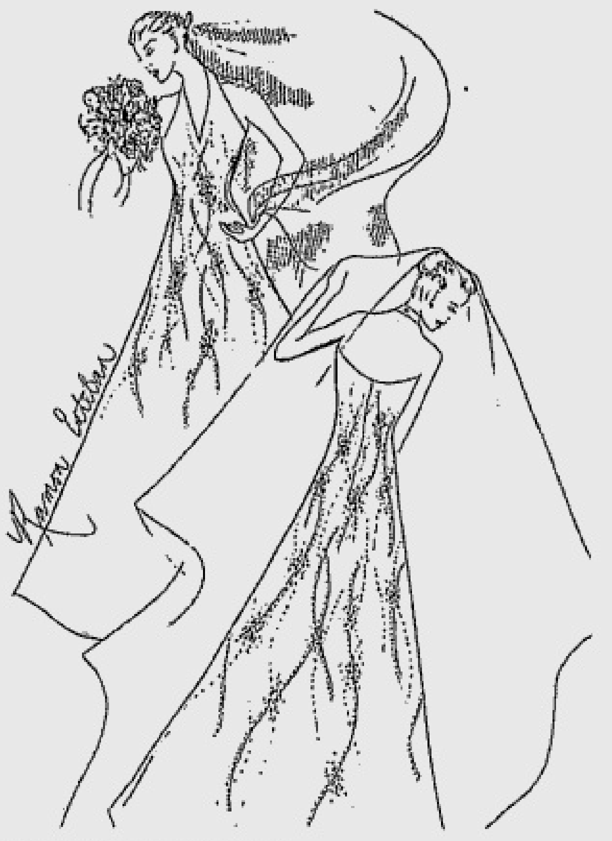


AROLLADO-BERISO

Rodel B. Arollado, son of **Amelia Buenaventura vda. de Arollado**, will marry **Anna Liza Z. Beriso**, daughter of **Corazon Zabala vda. de Beriso**, on Dec. 21, at the Parish of Immaculate Conception, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The bridal gown is made of German shantung with frosted organza highlighted with Australian cut beads and sequence pearl ecru. **Angelita D. Chua** designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

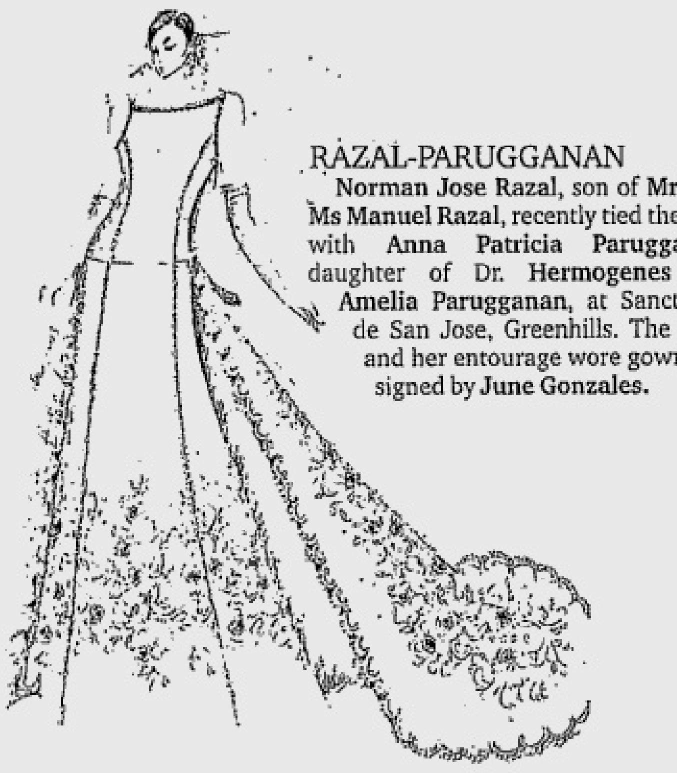




BUNGUBUNG-ABEJA

Nuriza Abeja, daughter of **Jaime** and **Nuriza Abeja**, and **Norman Vincent Bungubung**, son of **Leopoldo** and **Estrella Bungubung**, were married on Nov. 8 at Iglesia ni Cristo, locale of Makati. Reception followed at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

The bride wore a creation of **Ramon Esteban.** It is a fully beaded haltered princess cut gown made of duchess satin with a long cathedral train. The intricate cascading bead works had swarovski crystals, sugar beads and cut beads.



RAZAL-PARUGGANAN

Norman Jose Razal, son of **Mr. and Ms Manuel Razal**, recently tied the knot with **Anna Patricia Parugganan**, daughter of Dr. **Hermogenes** and **Amelia Parugganan**, at Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills. The bride and her entourage wore gowns designed by **June Gonzales.**

DEMEGILLO-CRUZ

Jerrold R. Demegillo, son of **Mayo** and **Erlinda Demegillo**, will wed **Lorissa F. Cruz**, daughter of engineer **Aderito** and **Rosa Cruz**, on Dec. 23 at the Basilica of San Sebastian, Quiapo, Manila. Reception will follow at St. Ezekiel Moreno Hall.

BRISENIO-ANTIFORDA

Edmundo Dimanlig Brisenio, son of **Eduardo** and **Angelita Brisenio**, will tie the knot with **Rosella Perez Antiforda**, daughter of **Godofredo** and **Rosalinda Antiforda**, on Dec. 13 at Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila. Reception will follow at Teatrillo, Casa Manila, Intramuros, and will be catered by Jojie's.

Gino P. Cabullo designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage. Overall wedding coordinator is **Jorge P. Cabullo.**

ROMERO-OLIVEROS

Elsa Amante Oliveros, daughter of **Ciriaco** and **Gloria Oliveros**, will exchange vows with **Alfredo Quing Romero Jr.**, son of **Alfredo Sr.** and **Corazon Romero**, on Dec. 20 at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila.

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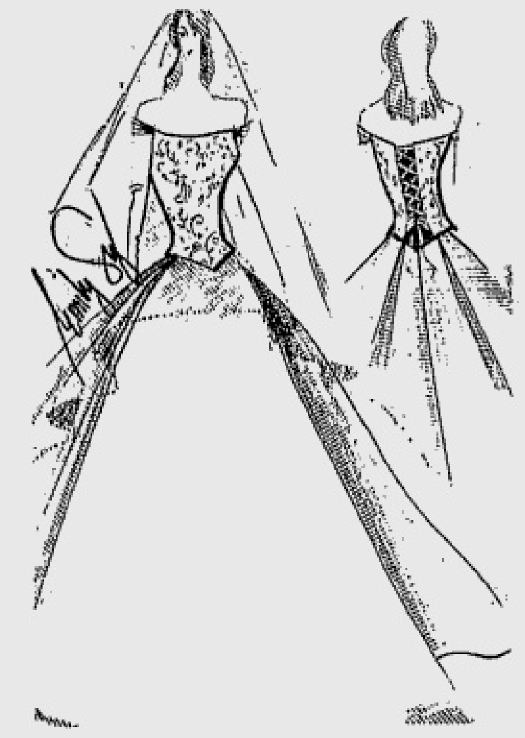
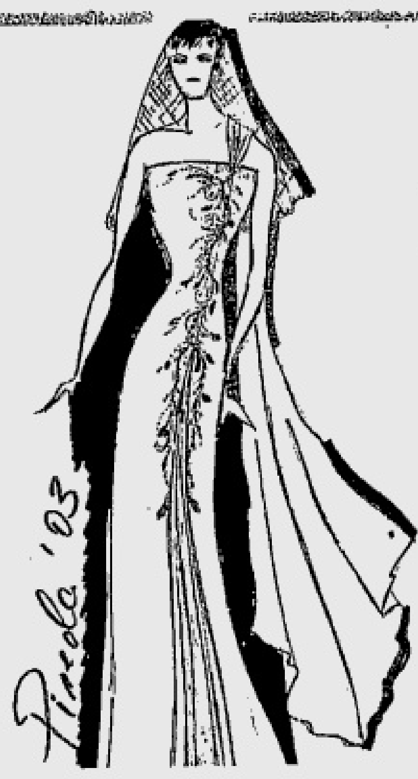


AYALDE-ALO

Erwin Ayalde, son of **Willy** and **Baby Ayalde**, recently married **Jade Alo**, daughter of **Jerry** and **Linda Alo**, at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, QC.

The bride wore a duchess satin off-shoulder gown designed and executed by **Ma. Emily Sy** who also made the gowns of the entourage.



MENDOZA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Larry and **Precy Mendoza** will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows on Dec. 10 at Christ the King Church in Green Meadows, QC.

A dinner-dance will follow at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's strapless gown using four layers of silk chiffon in ivory and blush pink.

SANGIL-DE VERA

Ron Sangil, son of **Rogelio** and **Betty Sangil**, married Dr. **Anna de Vera**, daughter of **Leopoldo** and **Elenita de Vera**, on Dec. 6 at St. James the Great Parish Church. Reception followed at the garden of the Ayala Alabang Country Club. The bridal gown was designed by **Bill Calubaquib.**

FERRER-LAYUG

Alain Steve Q. Ferrer, son of **Mr.** and **Ms Steve M. Ferrer** of Zambales, will tie the knot with **Elaine A. Layug**, daughter of **Mr.** and **Ms Ramon B. Layug**, on Dec. 14 at Our Lady of Remedy Chapel 1 in Clarkfield, Pampanga. Reception will follow at the Caviar Banquet and Bar.

DE LOS SANTOS-PINEDA

Nathaniel de los Santos, son of the late **Nestor** and **Flordeliz de los Santos**, will tie the knot with **Jfio** and **Lerma Pineda**, on Dec. 26 at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church. Reception will follow at Fernwood Gardens in QC. The bride will wear a gown by **Ding Marquez.**

PUBLIC ADVISORY

UPRIGHT MARKETING SOLUTIONS, INC. holds the exclusive marketing and distribution rights of **LACTOVITALE Lactobacillus Plantarum** products in the Philippines, and **LACTOPAFI Lactobacillus Plantarum** products in the entire Luzon.

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GONZALES-MANABAT NUPTIALS

A simple but tasteful wedding

AFTER a blissful engagement of a year and a half, Ronald Gonzales and Cristy Manabat's dream of a simple but tasteful wedding became a reality with the help of parents, relatives and close friends.

Ronald is son of senior forester Rogelio A. Gonzales (deceased) and Aurora Reyes vda Gonzales, while Cristina is the daughter of Leonardo J. Manabat and Lourdes P. Manabat (deceased).

They exchanged vows at the Parish of Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Bulletin Street corner Daily Mirror Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. Reception was held at Jade Valley Cantonese Quisine, #39 Scout Turillo Street near corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

WITH secondary sponsors Angelica Gonzales, Aida Young, Jonalyn Kitain, Roberto Reyes Gonzales, Rindo and Bong Esguerra

NEWLYWEDS Ronald and Cristy Gonzales (nee Manabat)

WITH Angelica Rachel Gonzales, the groom's mother Aurora Reyes vda. Gonzales, Rommel Anthony Gonzales, Roberto Anthony Gonzales and flower girl Gail Ceriles

WITH the entourage

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Sunday IFESTYLE

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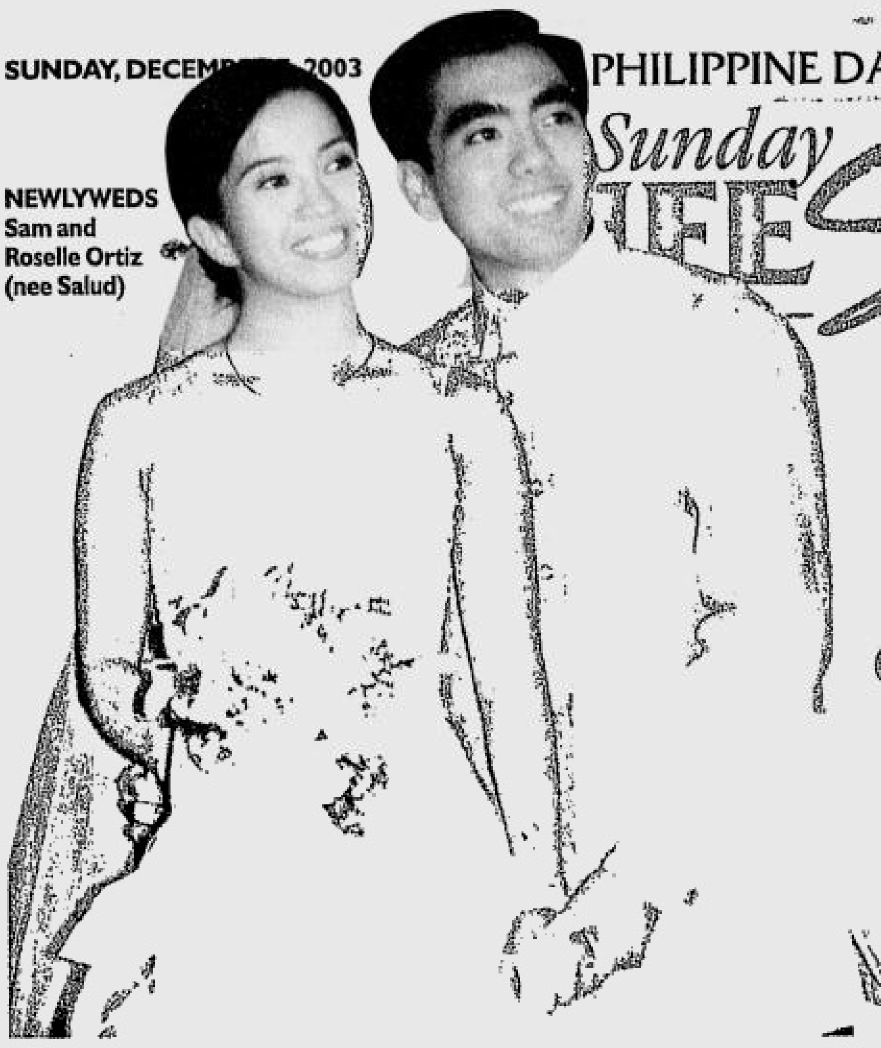
December 4 - 10, 2003
Activity Area, 2nd Level, Building A
MEGAMALL, EDSA, Mandaluyong City



NEWLYWEDS
Sam and Roselle Ortiz (nee Salud)

ORTIZ-SALUD NUPTIALS

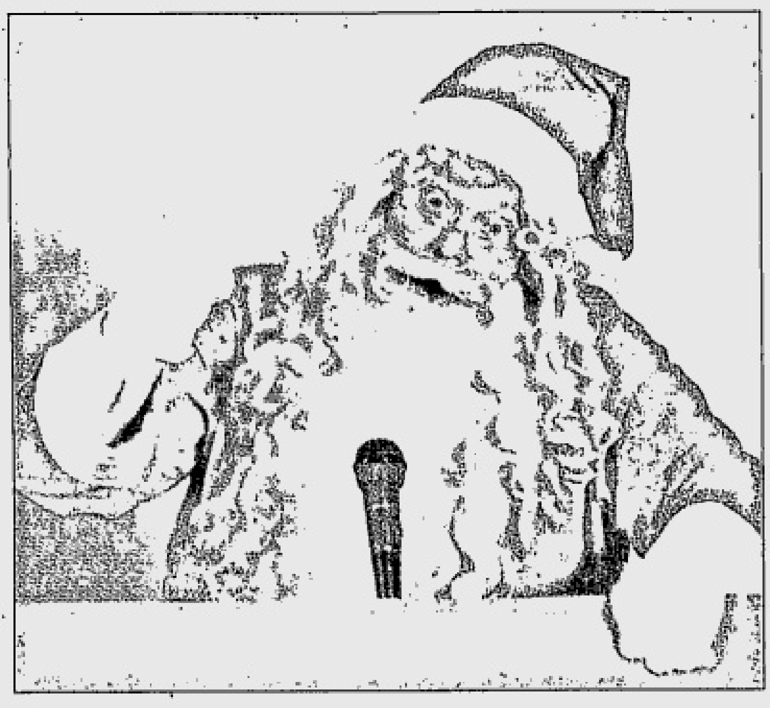
Love under the August moon

ON AN AUGUST night in 1997, Sam Ortiz and Roselle Salud met for the first time through common friends at the Music Museum. Three months later, they went steady. Five years later, much to Roselle's delight, Sam formally proposed marriage at the Tagaytay Highlands.

LOVE/ H2

SMART zed™

IS HE GOING TO RUN?
From page P5



SANTA

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LOGO HUNNY
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LOGO LUVROSE
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LOGO FRENCH
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LOGO SOAR1
LOGO SUNSMILE1
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LOGO JINGJANG2
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LOOK
LOGO LOOK1
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LOGO DEVIL
LOGO URANGEL1
LOGO PANTHER1
I LUV U!
LOGO SPIDER
LOGO PHOENIX2
LOGO SEXYBABY
LOGO LUVU1
LOGO ANIMEKID
Hi!
LOGO HI
LOGO BUDDIES
LOGO EAGLE
Frend kita!
LOGO FRENDKTA
LOGO FACES3
LOGO TRIBALPIG
I'm Still HERE!
LOGO STILLHERE
LOGO SMILE4
YEAH!
LOGO YEAH
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PIC MAGPASKO
BEARCUPID
cute ko no?
PIC CUTEKO
i luv you BABE.
PIC LUVBABE
DREAMIN OF U
PIC BEARDRIM
u are in my heart
PIC INMYHART
i luvu best friend!
PIC LUVBEST
I Miss You babe
PIC MISSBABE
in luv with u
PIC WITHU
mis kita
PIC GIRLMIS
hello
PIC MUNKEE
WUZ UP?
PIC WUZUP
TAKE CARE
PIC TCARE1
PIC OKI1
MUSTA NA?
PIC MUSTANA
I'M THINKIN OF YOU
PIC TINKIN
PIC LABU
PIC DUNK2

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Ring tones:

Title	Artist	Keywords
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Hark the Herald Angels Sing	*Traditional*	**TONE HARK**
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day	*Traditional*	**TONE BELLSONXMAS**
Jingle Bells	*Traditional*	**TONE JINGLEBELLS**
Jolly Old Saint Nick	*Traditional*	**TONE SAINTNICK**
Joy to the World	*Traditional*	**TONE JOYWORLD**
Merrily We Roll Along	*Traditional*	**TONE MERRILY**
O Come All Ye Faithful	*Traditional*	**TONE OCOME**
O Holy Night	*Traditional*	**TONE HOLYNIGHT**
O Little Town of Bethlehem	*Traditional*	**TONE OLITTLE**
Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer	*Traditional*	**TONE RUDOLPH**
Santa Claus is Coming to Town	*Traditional*	**TONE SANTACLAUS**
Silent Night	*Traditional*	**TONE SILENTNITE**
The First Noel	*Traditional*	**TONE FIRSTNOEL**
We Three Kings of Orient Are	*Traditional*	**TONE 3KINGS**
We Wish You A Merry Christmas	*Traditional*	**TONE WEWISHU**
Mr. Suave	*Parokya ni Edgar*	**TONE MRSUAVE**
Spaghetti Song	*Sexbomb*	**TONE SPAG**
I Want You	*Thalia & Fat Joe*	**TONE IWANTU**
Perfect	*Simple Plan*	**TONE PERFECT2**
I Wanna Be With You	*Mandy Moore*	**TONE WANNABEW**
Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE WERISLUV**
I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**TONE IBE**
Maybe	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE MAYBE**
Kanlungan	*Noel Cabangon*	**TONE KANLUNGAN**
Makewish	*Vic Zhou*	**TONE MAKEWISH**
Pare Ko	*Eraserheads*	**TONE PAREKO**
Unwell	*Matchbox 20*	**TONE UNWELL**
Mr. Suave Version 2	*Parokya ni Edgar*	**TONE MRSUAVE2**
Send Me Your Love	*Sting*	**TONE SENDMELUV**
The Next Episode	*Dr. Dre*	**TONE NEXTEP**
Perfect	*True Faith*	**TONE PERFECT**
Show Me How To Live	*Audioslave*	**TONE SHOWHOW**
Happy	*Rolling Stones*	**TONE HAPPY**
Baby I Love You	*J. Lo*	**TONE BABYLOVE**
Boys Don't Cry	*Plumb*	**TONE BOYSDONT**
Bright Lights	*Matchbox 20*	**TONE BRIGHT**
Take On Me	*AHA*	**TONE TAKEON**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
Build Me Up, Buttercup	*Sound Alike*	**TONE BUTTERCUP**
Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
Someday	*Nickelback*	**TONE SOMEDAY2**
Thoia Thoing	*R. Kelly*	**TONE THOIA**
Ignition	*R. Kelly*	**TONE IGNI**
Can't Lose You	*F4*	**TONE CANTLOSE**
Numb	*Linkin Park*	**TONE NUMB**

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2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

To send logo, tone or picture message to a friend,
type **<keyword> <cell phone number>** and send to 288.
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To send a tone, TONE MRSUAVE 09181234567.
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ROSELILY Cervantes, Abigail Ortiz, Melissa Hilvano, Pia Villanueva

FRIENDS OF THE COUPLE. Nardie Sy, KC Huang, Rommel Hernandez, Michelle Verano, Gats Uy, Ria Valle and Elmer

Love under the August moon

WITH their parents, lawyer Romulo and Ruby Salud, and governors Baby Bayani and Justo Ortiz

From page H1

So it was that on the same date, Aug. 23, six years later, the couple finally tied the knot at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, in the presence of joyful family and friends.

Both bride and groom come from fairly prominent families. The groom's father is former Presidential Adviser on Civic Affairs and former Lions Clubs International governor Justo M. Ortiz, while his mother is All Nations' Women's Group president and Philippine National Red Cross governor Leonida "Baby" Bayani-Ortiz.

The bride, on the other hand, is the daughter of Philippine Labor Attaché to Southern Taiwan Romulo de Villa Salud and Roberta M. Salud.

Sam looked dashing in his barong, and his bride was an exquisite sight in *piña* finery. The rest of her entourage was clad in Thai silk, all by Mila-Santiago de Leon, who created the beautiful gowns with a turquoise motif.

Sam received his baccalaureate in business administration in William Paterson University, New Jersey, US, and his Masters in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

Roselle has a BS Psychology degree from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and went on to medical school at UP-PGH, graduating in 2001.

But on their wedding day, the couple were just two lovely people very much in love with each other as they said their "I do's" before officiating priests Rev. Fr. Francis Gustilo and Rev. Fr. Leo Macaraeg, the bride's uncle.

Their happy union was witnessed by principal sponsors Secretary Roilo Golez and Gov. Nena Go, Rep. Jaime Lopez and Linda Fugoso, lawyer Bienvenido Ledesma and Concepcion Sarah Sales, lawyer Pete Aquino and Agnes Ponce, Richard Palou and Irene Diomampo, Edwin Arcilla and Annie Magno, and Silvino Antonio Jr. and Narisa Garrucho.

Best man was Marlon Yabut, and the groomsmen were Ryan Salud, Carlo Ortiz and Alann Salud. Maid of honor was Roxanne Salud, and the bridesmaids were Abigail Ortiz, Maribeth Bayani and Anna Lissa Salud.

The secondary sponsors included Erwin Samson and Pia Villanueva Anna Melissa Hilvano and George Uy, Rose Cervantes and Menardo Sy, Joachim Leoncio, Garret Shane Garrucho, Rafael Salud and Caleb Blaine Ortiz, and flower girls Mary Louise Pineda, Michaela Denise Coching, Andrea Maurice Garrucho and Mikaela Katherina Marie Bayani.

The reception at Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La was made unforgettable with the groom serenading the bride as she entered the room, and their first dance was to the groom's original composition.

There was also a surprise video presentation produced by the bride's sister Roxanne and her boyfriend Jay San Luis.

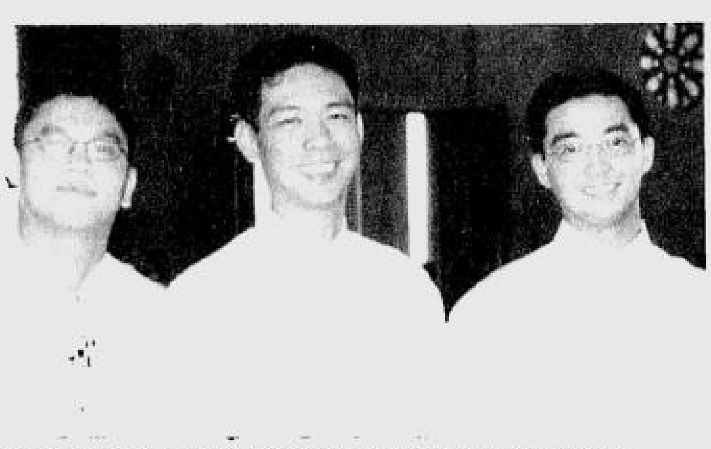
Wedding Treasures coordinated the wedding and saw to it that all went well. Florist Beth Amat decorated the ballroom with luscious blooms, while Son Et Lumierre of Afif Khodr installed the vibrant lights and sounds.

The musical performances of Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and Kadese entertained the guests, who went home with wooden gift boxes imported from Taiwan as giveaways.

Sam, the current assistant to the center manager in Ayala Land Inc., and Roselle, a second-year medical resident at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, would always remember their wedding as the culmination of a love affair began six years ago, under an August moon.

MARIBETH Bayani, Anna Lissa Salud and Roxanne Salud

GROOMSMEN Carlo Ortiz, Alann Salud and Ryan Salud



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PRINCIPAL sponsors Rep. Jaime Lopez, lawyer Bienvenido Ledesma, lawyer Pedro Aquino and Secretary Roilo Golez

ORTIZ relatives: Marlon Yabut, Claro Ortiz, Joshua Yabut, Steph Yabut, Maricar Yabut, Monica Ortiz, Rio Ortiz and Brenda Ortiz

PRINCIPAL sponsors Silvino Antonio, Edwin Arcilla and Richard Palou

Her best friend acts like a tramp

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My friend Sara and I are both in our mid-20s. Going to the same Catholic school, we practically grew up together, although her family is liberal while mine is conservative.

Sara has had a long string of boyfriends, and even when her boyfriend, who is based abroad, is around, she finds ways to sneak into flings. When he is not around, she openly flirts with men. Holding hands and smooching with a guy in public comes naturally to her.

It has come to a point where Sara had a fling with a married man which ruined his marriage.

People around have been criticizing her "loose" behavior, and some even complain to me about her. Sara, however, says she isn't doing anything she should be ashamed of, and she doesn't care what others say.

I've tried many times to talk sense into her, but we always end up arguing and having a cold war.

I'm unhappy when people brand my friend "wild" or "*malandi*." Her behavior has not resulted in anything truly disastrous to her yet, but I don't want to wait till then.

Please help me find ways to convince Sara to mend her ways.

MERLY

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Sara feels sure that she knows what she is doing, that she is doing fine, thank you.

Given her record of "achievements," we'll have to agree with her that she's winning. It's hard to argue with victory, and we can only tell her that she'd be a true winner only if she'd quit now. She can't keep on winning, and no one tempts the devil and survives unscathed.

If you've pointed that out to her and that didn't stop her, then I say it's time to quit. Quit not your friendship with her, though; rather, only quit arguing with her.

If you are a good friend to her as your letter indicates, then you'd want to be around when the time comes that she needs a shoulder to cry on.

A couple of things you should do while being around, though. First, make clear to her that because you fear the disaster that she's courting, then you will not be a party to her escapades. That means you will not pinch-hit or cover for her in her relationships or arrangements with her men.

Secondly, change the subject whenever she begins talking about her past and current flames. You two have been friends a long time; there are many other things you could talk about that won't emphasize your differences and not make you worry about the risks she's taking.

Lastly, keep in mind that you're not your friend's keeper, and it is not your fault (especially since you've tried talking sense into her) if she pursues her flings with abandon.

Keep in mind, too—and remind people who might need such reminding—that Sara and you are persons, not birds, and that if you stick with her, it does not mean that you are of the same feather as she in all matters.

> Make clear to her that because you're concerned about the consequences she's courting, you will not be a party to her escapades

'Text-a-gift' this Christmas

WITH Christmas fast approaching, there's always a lot of buzz about how and what to share to the less fortunate.

A group of civic-minded individuals led by former banker Philip Camara has the perfect solution to this particular problem.

Philip, together with his partners Olyn Panlilio and Ching Camara, has formed RemitCard, a new text-based remittance card that lets people text their gifts or financial payments to institutions such as their favorite charity, school organizations, and eventually, even their insurer or bank.

According to Philip, the idea for RemitCard came to him as he was thinking of how best to help the more than 16 Filipino million cellphone users make better use of their phones in transactions that involve money.

"Then it came to me, why not use SMS (or what is more popularly known as 'text')?" he says.

With that idea, Philip brought his experience in setting up the Philippines' first information technology-based remittance service to good use and set up RemitCard, which is now the country's first text-based remittance card.

By incorporating a PIN for each RemitCard, people can text their financial transactions through their cellular phones. RemitCard users can text key financial transactions to the company's servers, which then process and immediately download them to the company's partner institutions.

NGOs have been the first to embrace the revolutionary product, with organizations such as Haribon, World Vision, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, and the Jesuit Volunteers now using RemitCard to allow their members to text their donations to the organizations.

RemitCards for Haribon, World Vision, Tahanan and Jesuit Volunteers are now available at Rustans Supermarkets, SM Malls, Shangri-La Mall and True Value stores for those who would like to donate to these NGOs as well.

Simply follow the text messaging instructions at the back of each RemitCard to make donations. "It makes an ideal gift because it is convenient for both the sender and receiver," says Philip.

"We've made sure RemitCards are available at retail outlets to let people experience the convenience of texting their financial transactions, instead of having to take the hassle of traveling to different places to make their payments or donations," he adds.

"RemitCard is really ideal for Christmas since it gives everybody the chance to become part of the gift-giving spirit, which is what the season is all about."

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

S	I	L	A	S				M	E	A	R	A		C	A	B		M	D	S
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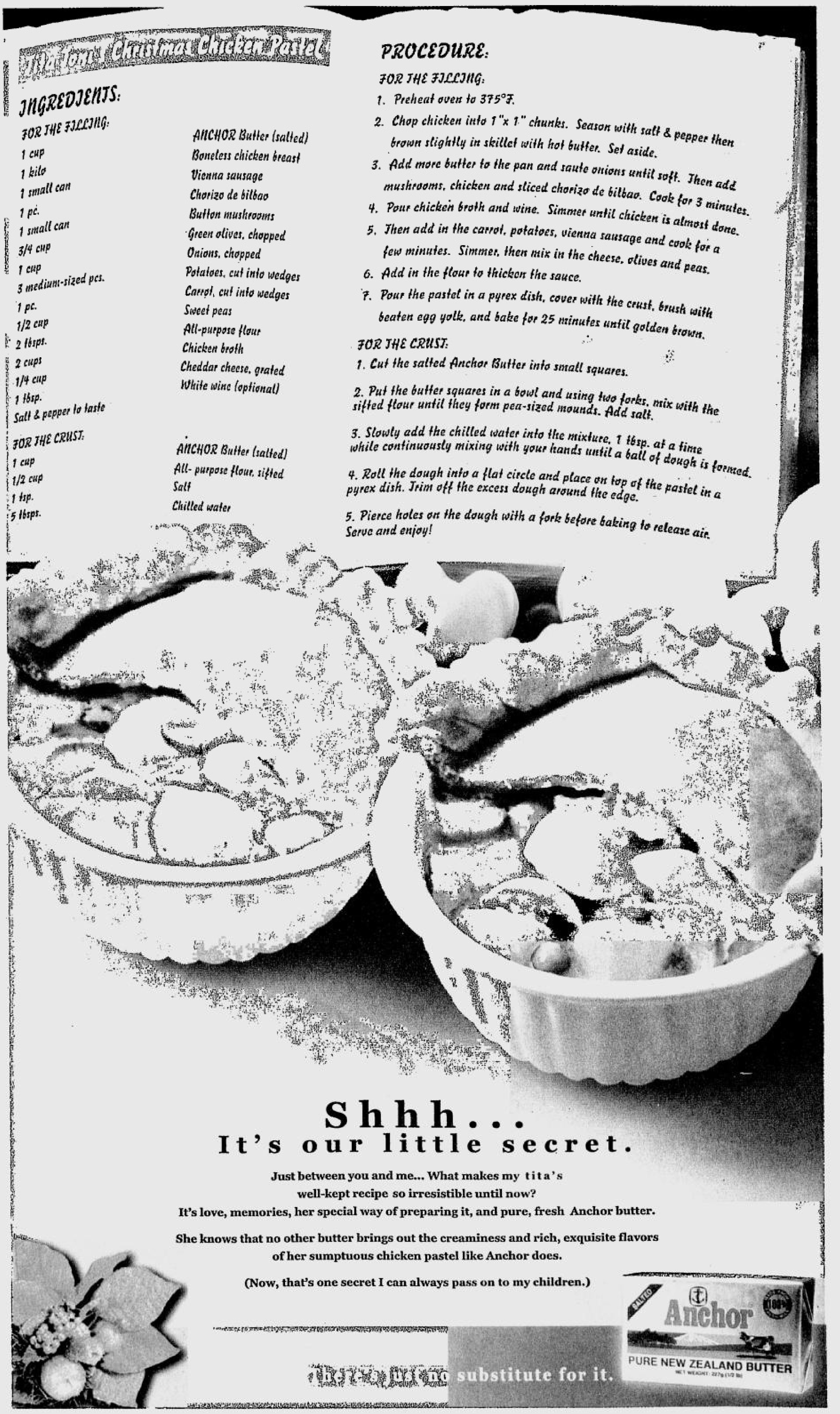


[illegible] Christmas Chicken Pastel

INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE FILLING:

1 cup	ANCHOR Butter (salted)
1 kilo	Boneless chicken breast
1 small can	Vienna sausage
1 pc.	Chorizo de bilbao
1 small can	Button mushrooms
3/4 cup	Green olives, chopped
1 cup	Onions, chopped
3 medium-sized pcs.	Potatoes, cut into wedges
1 pc.	Carrot, cut into wedges
1/2 cup	Sweet peas
2 tbsps.	All-purpose flour
2 cups	Chicken broth
1/4 cup	Cheddar cheese, grated
1 tbsp.	White wine (optional)
Salt & pepper to taste	

FOR THE CRUST:

1 cup	ANCHOR Butter (salted)
1/2 cup	All- purpose flour, sifted
1 tsp.	Salt
5 tbsps.	Chilled water

PROCEDURE:

FOR THE FILLING:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Chop chicken into 1"x 1" chunks. Season with salt & pepper then brown slightly in skillet with hot butter. Set aside.
3. Add more butter to the pan and saute onions until soft. Then add mushrooms, chicken and sliced chorizo de bilbao. Cook for 3 minutes.
4. Pour chicken broth and wine. Simmer until chicken is almost done.
5. Then add in the carrot, potatoes, vienna sausage and cook for a few minutes. Simmer, then mix in the cheese, olives and peas.
6. Add in the flour to thicken the sauce.
7. Pour the pastel in a pyrex dish, cover with the crust, brush with beaten egg yolk, and bake for 25 minutes until golden brown.

FOR THE CRUST:

1. Cut the salted Anchor Butter into small squares.
2. Put the butter squares in a bowl and using two forks, mix with the sifted flour until they form pea-sized mounds. Add salt.
3. Slowly add the chilled water into the mixture, 1 tbsp. at a time while continuously mixing with your hands until a ball of dough is formed.
4. Roll the dough into a flat circle and place on top of the pastel in a pyrex dish. Trim off the excess dough around the edge.
5. Pierce holes on the dough with a fork before baking to release air. Serve and enjoy!

Shhh...
It's our little secret.

Just between you and me... What makes my tita's well-kept recipe so irresistible until now?
It's love, memories, her special way of preparing it, and pure, fresh Anchor butter.

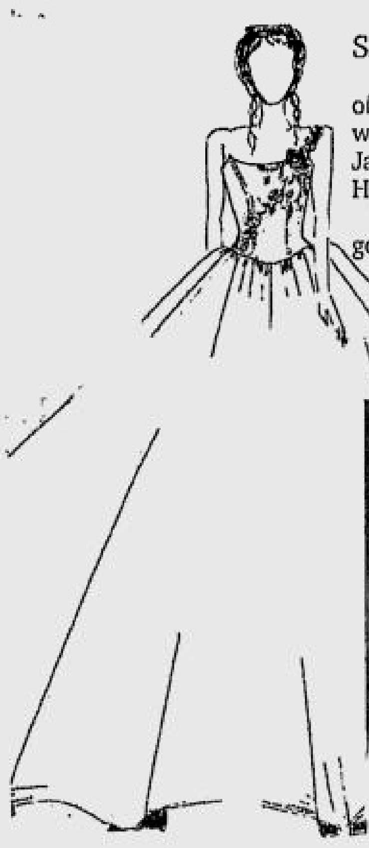
She knows that no other butter brings out the creaminess and rich, exquisite flavors of her sumptuous chicken pastel like Anchor does.

(Now, that's one secret I can always pass on to my children.)

[illegible] substitute for it.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



SANTOS DEBUT

Mina Gracia D. Santos, daughter of **Danilo** and **Esmeralda Santos**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Jan. 3, 2004 at Don Pedro Cayetano Hall, Wawa, Balagtas, Bulacan.

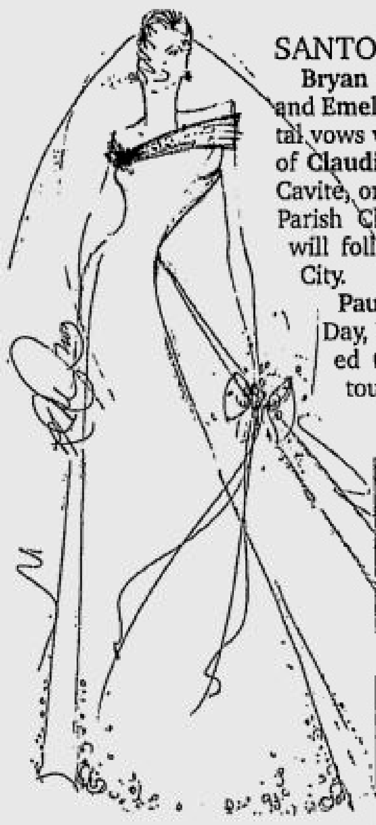
Yokie Ocharan designed the gown. **Noemi Bauista** of Yes I Do Wedding Planner Inc. is the event coordinator. **Elmer Lazaro** is the director and choreographer.

AQUINO-ONGPIN

Antonio Palacios Aquino Jr., son of **Antonio Sr.** and **Josefina Aquino**, will exchange vows with **Marie Katrina Concepcion Ongpin**, daughter of **Simon** and **Rebecca Ongpin**, on Dec. 12 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Dinner reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental, Manila.

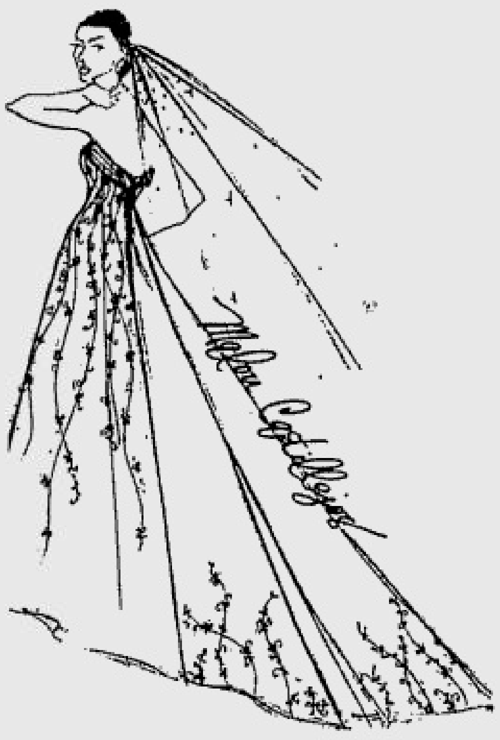
Clothes by Carmela of Batangas City created the bridal gown. Gown designs are by **Renn Mayores**. **Eddie Bruan** will do the hair and makeup.



SANTOS-ARANDA

Bryan Glen C. Santos, son of **Jose Jr.** and **Emelinda Santos**, will exchange marital vows with **Jennie C. Aranda**, daughter of **Claudio** and **Emilia Aranda** of Silang, Cavite, on Dec. 10 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church, Tagaytay City. Reception will follow at Casino Filipino, Tagaytay City.

Paul Rex A. Mateo of The Wedding Day, Imus, Cavite, designed and created the gowns of the bride and entourage.



PACIS-SALAS

Gilbert Pacis and **Marie Salas** recently exchanged I do's at the Garden Deck Renaissance Tower, Pasig City.

Malou Castillejos of C&C Creative Concepts created the bride's gown.

TRIVIÑO-BALDERAS

Juancho R.Triviño, son of **Juanito** and **Conchita Triviño**, will marry **Noraflor B. Balderas**, daughter of **Mario** and **Nora Balderas**, on Dec. 27 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Reception will be at Las Vegas Café, QC.

The bride will wear a duchess satin full balloon skirt and tube blouse embellished with cut silver beads.

CASTILLEJOS-GUTIERREZ

Ferdinand Castillejos and **Joan Clare Gutierrez** exchanged vows on Oct. 10 at Christ the King Church. Reception followed at Green Meadows Clubhouse. **Malou Castillejos** made the gowns of the bride and entourage.

MENDOZA
25TH ANNIVERSARY

Ramon and **Basilisa Andres Mendoza** will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on Dec. 10 at Most Holy Redeemer Parish Church in Brixton Hill, QC. Reception will follow at Max's Restaurant Dasmariñas.

Renée Salud designed the bridal gown.

ALCAZAR-PENTINIO

Lawrence Alcazar, son of **Severino** and **Herminia Alcazar**, will exchange I do's with **Maryanne Pentinio**, daughter of **Edmundo** and **Teresita Pentinio**, on Dec. 8 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will be held at Trellis, Fort Santiago.

Precious Samonte-Alagon designed the bridal gown. **Penk Ching** made the cake.

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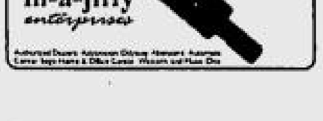

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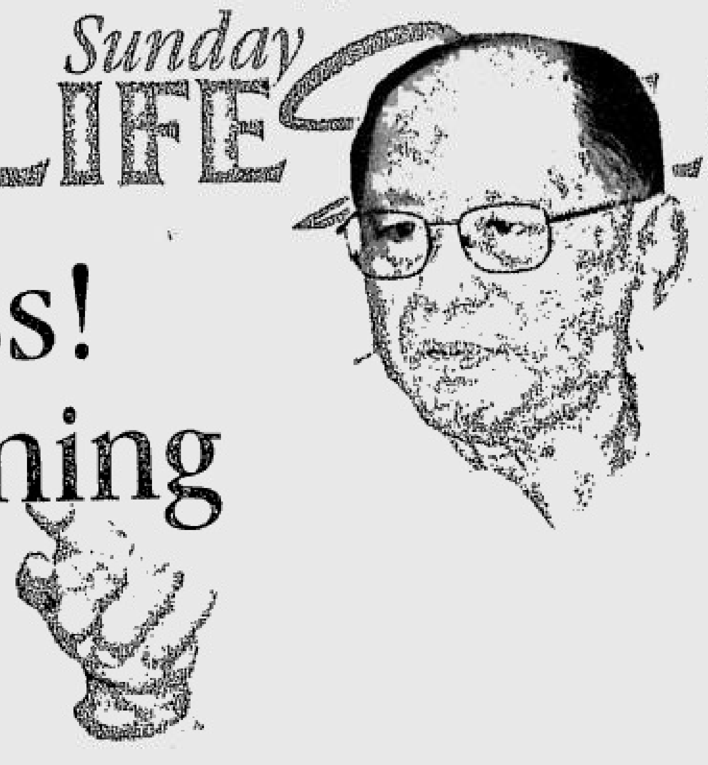
Attention, class! Say good morning to the tycoons

Private education has become a part of several big business conglomerates

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas



PANFILO Domingo, president and CEO of University of the East

TYCOONS have diversified into a field not usually associated with business: education.

Their entry into private education is paved by private philanthropy. This is not surprising. Institutions that bear the names of business magnates stand as towering testimonials to the charitable instincts of successful businessmen. John D. Rockefeller Sr., for example, has funded the Rockefeller Foundation, Rockefeller University and the University of Chicago.

In the Philippines, schools such as University of the East, Mapua Institute of Technology, Asia Pacific College and Centro Escolar University have been funded by the business conglomerates of Lucio Tan, Alfonso Yuchengco, Henry Sy and Emilio Yap, respectively.

Financial rescue

Founded in the late 1940s, UE flourished quickly, but by the 1980s, it was floundering on debts. Tan interceded and bailed it out in 1990. Before he took over the university, UE had loans amounting to P110 million and an accumulated operating deficit of P60 million.

"UE was in dire financial straits for 12 years. Proceeds of the shares Tan bought were used to reduce UE's obligations amounting to P45 million," says Panfilo Domingo, who is former board chair and is now chief executive officer and president. He has been with UE for 13 years now.

Since Tan invested in the institution, UE has modernized and upgraded its facilities. It has a student population of 21,000 and faculty staff of 800. With campuses at 2219 C.M. Recto Ave., Manila and 105 Samson Rd., Caloocan City, UE plans to put up satellite schools in Cebu, Dagupan and Parañaque within the next five years.

"A seven-story building in the Caloocan campus is now being completed," Domingo adds. "The salaries of the faculty and academic officials have increased by 500-600 percent. In addition to that, we have introduced enlightened admissions and retention policies to develop this school into a center for academic excellence."

A teacher at UE used to get P4,500 a month, Domingo says. Now, one earns P125-P700 per hour. The minimum salary of a dean is P55,000 while the highest is P125,000 a month.

International center

The Mapua Institute of Technology was fully owned by the family of Don Tomas Mapua until 1999 when it was acquired 100 percent by the Yuchengco Group of Companies. Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco chairs the Mapua board of trustees while Alfonso Yuchengco III is the vice chair.

A 78-year-old technology-focused school located in Intramuros, Mapua prides itself with the quality of its architecture and engineering programs, which have produced topnotchers in government-administered professional licensure examinations.

"The institute has been doing good in offering quality education even before the Yuchengcos came in," says Dr. Reynaldo Vea, president. "Mapua has improved a bit in terms of faculty and facilities. I look at it as a continuum of what the Mapuas have started. We want to provide very highly qualified and competitive engineers and on top of that, we want to be able to develop credible research capability in the long term."

This year, Mapua in Intramuros has 17,000

ATTENTION/12

DR. Reynaldo Vea, Mapua president

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Breaking Us In Two	Mandy Moore	breakingin2
Moonshadow	Mandy Moore	moonshadow
Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters	Mandy Moore	monalisas
Sweet Sixteen	Hilary Duff	sweet16
Metamorphosis	Hilary Duff	metamorphosis
So Yesterday	Hilary Duff	soyesterday
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	Hilary Duff	staclaus
Sleigh Ride	Hilary Duff	sleighride
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!	Michael Bublé	letitsnow
I'll Be Home For Christmas	Michael Bublé	home4xmas
The Christmas Song	Michael Bublé	xmassong
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4496, Series of 2003.

MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MAPUA Institute of Technology

Attention, class! Say good morning to the tycoons

From page I1

enrollees while its IT center in Makati has 2,500. The institute employs a full-time faculty staff of 500, part-time, 200 and non-teaching staff of 500.

Ambassador Yuchengco, Vea adds, believes the institute should help address the demands of the new millennium for quality professionals to move the nation forward.

"(Yuchengco's) vision is to develop Mapua into an international center of engineering, architecture and IT education," Vea says. "This is why our curricular program responds to the challenges of globalization in order to produce graduates who shall be at par with their foreign counterparts." The school president adds that Mapua puts primary emphasis on information technology since IT is vital to global competitiveness.

Aside from its schools in Intramuros and Doroteo Jose St. in Manila, Mapua has opened its IT Center and School of Information and Technology at Reposo and Puyat Streets in Makati.

"We think there's a golden opportunity for the Philippine area of IT where investments in equipment, research facilities need not be that prohibitive," Vea adds. "All we need are good computers and systems and connectivity to the network."

Vea says Mapua used to have a few computers. "But we now have 2,000—1,200 in Intramuros and 800 in Makati, which are all used for instruction, research and administrative purposes."

Producing IT professionals

The Asia Pacific College (APC), located on Humabon Street, Magallanes, Makati, is a partnership between Shoemart (SM) Foundation and IBM Philippines.

In 1989, IBM was looking for a partner with whom it could form a computer training institution. In 1991, IBM began having discussions with Dr. Paulino Tan, computer consultant for SM. He suggested a full-fledged school offering degree and non-degree programs that are industry-relevant. Since Henry Sy Sr., chair of SM Group of Companies, saw an opportunity to contribute to socio-economic development through education, he joined IBM in the venture.

Thus, APC was established in 1991. Starting with 50 students and 15 faculty members, the college now has 1,320 students and 80 staff members.

"We are not a research-oriented institution but our students are exposed to actual industry environment, situations and tools that exist in the IT industry now," says Tan, APC president.

"By IT industry, we don't only mean computer science but the whole menu of applications to different fields."

Tan says APC is a full-fledged school, "not a hole-in-the-wall type of IT institute."

"It has an auditorium, indoor basketball gym, physical fitness gym, laboratories, dormitory, canteen, basement parking and back-up generator for the 12-story building."

Giving back one's wealth

Investing in schools is not really a profitable venture for the taipans, the school officials say. Corporate philanthropists are driven to reach out to those in need, and to "give back" a generous portion of their wealth to the communities and institutions that helped them achieve success, the officials say.

"SM Foundation was established for the purpose of educating less privileged students," Tan says. "Education serves as its outreach program, contribution to social responsibility, and social development of the country while doing other things."

Tan adds that SM and IBM do not look at APC as a profitable venture. "Both SM and IBM are big enough not to depend on a school for profits. They can make money on their own . . . It's hard to get a return of investments from schools."

Domingo explains that since government can't provide enough for education, it's necessary for the private sector to step into the picture.

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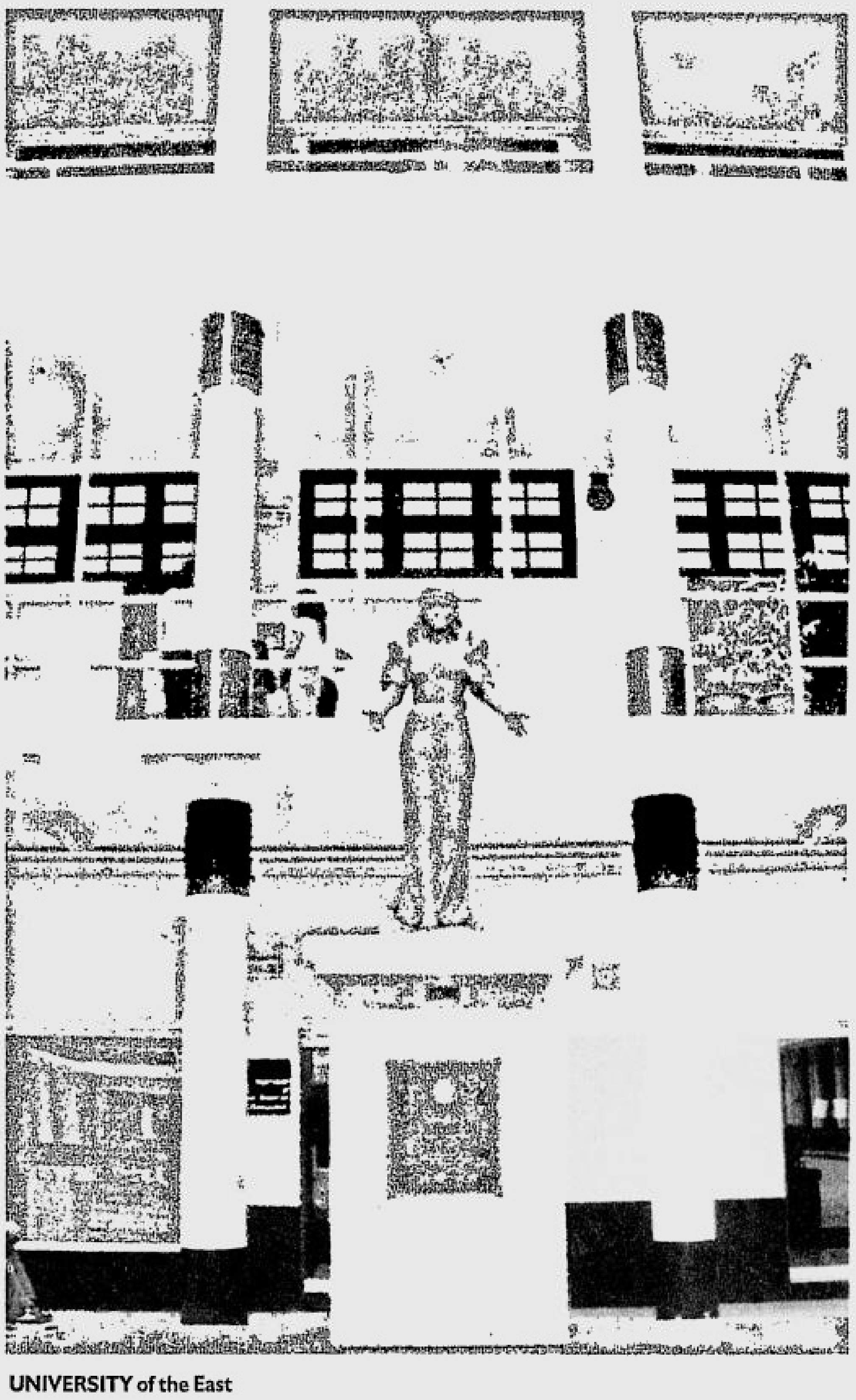
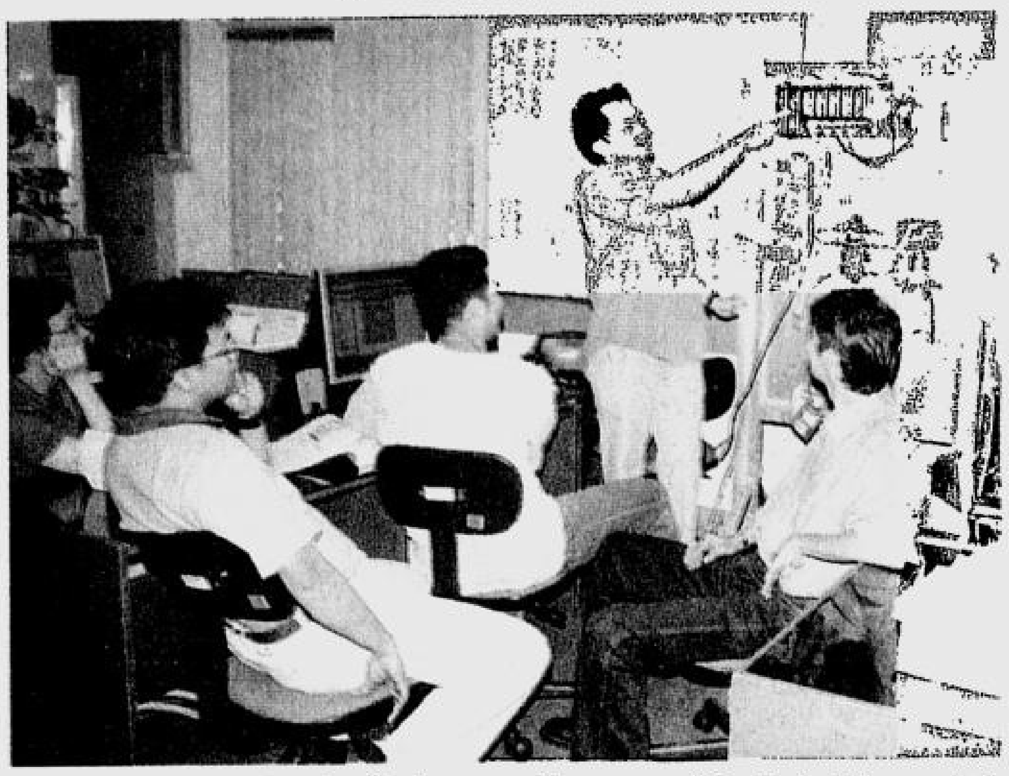


UNIVERSITY of the East

DR. Paulino Tan, president of Asia Pacific College

ASIA PACIFIC COLLEGE

ASIA Pacific College



THE BIGGEST engineering school in the country, Mapua accounts for about eight percent of engineering graduates every year.

ASIA Pacific College students have extensive exposure in computer applications using relevant software and hardware.

Attention, class! Say good morning to the tycoons

From page I2

"It's very timely that the taipans are going into education in order to translate what they know very well in corporate government into academic government. At the same time, because of their financial capability, they contribute toward the improvement of the schools they purchase," Domingo says.

The UE official adds that Tan purchased UE not for business but to leave a legacy to Filipinos who cannot afford schooling at elite universities because of prohibitive tuition.

"As much as possible, we try to reduce the increases in tuition," Domingo says. "Any profits we have generated over the years have been plowed back in order to improve facilities, increase salaries of faculty and rank and file, and upgrade the physical facilities of the university. In fact, we have one of the most modern centers for IT in the University Belt."

Meanwhile, businessman Emilio Yap has also acquired 94 million shares, or 27 percent of Centro Escolar University for about P761 million. Together with the Echauzes, original owners of the CEU, Yap controls 55 percent of the school.

On the other hand, the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation and Gokongwei Group of Companies endowed P200 million to the Ateneo de Manila University's undergraduate school of management last year. The Gokongweis have also made donations to San Carlos University in Cebu, Xavier School, De La Salle University, Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Concepcion Academy.

George S.K. Ty's Metrobank Foundation has been providing scholarships for students of the Manila Doctors' College, the educational arm of the Manila Doctors' Hospital.

For business leaders, it makes good business sense to invest in the younger generation to ensure qualified skills and talents for the future. Lack of properly trained talents may doom Filipino businesses. Education is an insurance against that.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Bicol kids get daily milk rations

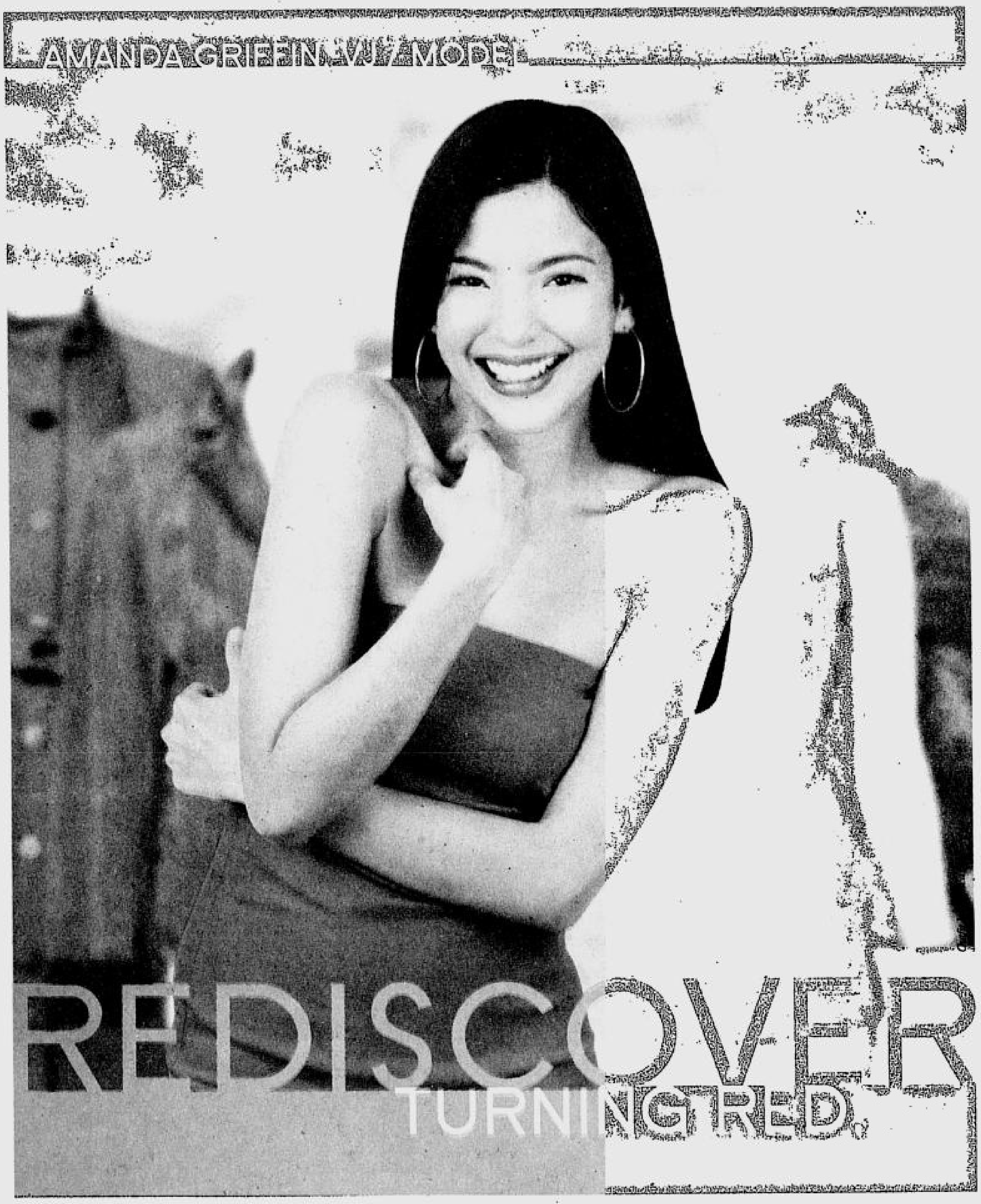
SOME 140,000 public school children from 312 schools in 26 districts in Camarines Sur have been getting a daily ration of milk and biscuits under the School Nutrition Program (SNP) which began in September.

The SNP is made possible through a commodity donation from the United States Department of Agriculture. It is being implemented and managed by Land O' Lakes Foundation Philippines in cooperation with the Inter-agency Milk Feeding Committee, composed of the National Dairy Authority, Department of Education, Department of Health's Bureau of Food and Drugs and the National Nutrition Council (NCC).

The SNP serves participating kids 200 ml ultra-high temperature milk and 40 grams of nutritious biscuits every day.

Land O' Lakes Foundation Philippines chose Camarines Sur for the nutrition program based on a study on malnutrition standards by the NNC and upon recommendation by DepEd.

Camarines Sur, the biggest and most populous province in the Bicol Region, has one of the highest incidences of malnutrition among school children and one of the highest elementary dropout rates in the country. The SNP aims to raise the nutritional status and improve the mental and physical development of school children in the province.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4620 Series of 2003.

Electronic learning boosts technical education

By Anne A. Jambora

STARTING this semester, e-learning will take over the programs for the poor youth of Don Bosco Training Centers in Luzon, a technical-vocational school known for churning out electronics graduates.

In the new setup, students will rely heavily on the computer for their preprogrammed lessons. Only 20 percent of the course will be devoted to traditional teaching. The instructor is limited to supervising students and answering queries. Students will be left on their own.

The new'scheme is based on the pilot project evolved by the Don Bosco last year, and which won second prize, out of over 100 entries from all over Asia, in the Samsung DigitAll Hope regional social program.

Because of the victory, Samsung donated $70,000 to Don Bosco, including products useful for the project, such as cameras, computer monitors, hard discs.

Samsung's regional social program is part of the company's commitment to give back to the countries where it operates. Although the electronics company has been actively involved in community services and activities since 1995, this year's DigitAll Hope is the largest social program in Asia so far, with a $600,000 grant divided among various organizations that use technology to improve the lives of the youth.

"By using Information Technology in teaching, learning time is 20 percent faster than traditional method. We can now give more hands-on time to our students, especially essential for their technical training," says Manuel M. Biona, Don Bosco Center for Research and Training executive director.

Peer coaching

E-learning is cost-efficient, too, says Biona, since teachers will now handle twice the number of students per class. For instance, a class with 50 computers can accommodate 100 students per hour, since two students can share a computer.

So more poor youth can benefit from Don Bosco's technical programs. Regular training costs about P30,000 per program, Biona says. Since the centers are highly subsidized, students pay only P1,000 or P2,000 for the training fee.

The computer-sharing method also encourages peer coaching, Biona says. Based on the pilot project, pairing a fast learner with a slow one promotes greater learning efficiency and better performance in exams—for the slow student.

What happens, he explains, is that the slow student will work twice as hard to keep up with his partner. The smart one works comfortably at his pace, but not without tutoring his slow seatmate along the way.

In the long run, Biona says the school can save money in terms of costs, despite the expensive infrastructure needed to set up the new training centers.

The quantity of computers, however, will vary from center to center since some schools need only to augment their existing computers while a few have only 50 students per program. There are eight Don Bosco Training Centers in Luzon, with Don Bosco Makati having the highest enrollment rate at 1,200 students.

Biona says the Samsung grant will run for 2½ years. The grant includes setting up the computers, training the teachers and developing courseware customized to the students' needs. Since the students are mostly out-of-school youths, Biona says, the school plans to come up with modules in Tagalog.

Other countries that participated in the Samsung DigitAll Hope regional social program included Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Eight judges from the eight participating countries were tapped to judge for the rigid screening process of all project proposals. From the Philippines was Department of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro.

Project proposals were judged according to program objective, impact, sustainability, responsiveness, creativity and innovation, program implementation and efficiency, practicality and resourcefulness. United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and national youth agencies throughout the region helped Samsung identify organizations that matched the program objectives.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Samsung has donated $70,000 worth of electronic equipment to the Don Bosco technical schools

MANUEL M. Biona, Don Bosco Center for Research and Training executive director

USING Information Technology in teaching makes learning time 20 percent faster than the traditional method. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

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No deaf-mute children in this school

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ALONG R. Hidalgo St. in Quiapo, between the all-steel, Neogothic parish church of San Sebastian and once lovely, but now decaying, ancestral homes stands the Granada Educational Foundation, a beacon of hope for pre-school children with hearing impairment.

Run by the St. John of God (San Juan de Dios) Hospitaller Brothers, the center includes a polyclinic providing free services and a progressive pre-school for children with special needs (they are not referred to here as deaf-mutes).

The school is guided by the philosophy that children with special needs have the right to an education suitable to those needs, and that it is the responsibility of the school (and of parents) to develop the full potential of these children.

The foundation president is Bro. Ildefonso de Castro, and the executive director is Bro. Joseph Magliozzi of Italy. Bro. Leo Ichon is project director, with Sister Luigina Embalzado of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuce (Italy) as school principal and administrator in charge.

"Our concept is that children with impaired hearing should not feel that they are handicapped," says Embalzado. "Their age (pre-school) is a critical age. They should have self-esteem, there should be no feelings of inferiority. So I always tell the parents: Treat them like normal children. Give them all the assistance. The rest will follow."

Granada subsists on donations from individuals and institutions (like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) in the Philippines and in Italy, where the Hospitaller Brothers are based.

There is always need for funds and scholarship programs for the children, as the needed technology—including hearing aids—is expensive. Dr. Norberto V. Martinez of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital has been instrumental in finding sponsors for scholarships.

The school has 25 pupils this school year, but it can accommodate 30. Tuition used to be free, which made some parents take the child's education for granted. So now the parents are asked to contribute a little to the tuition.

"We also accept children who are impaired in other ways," notes Sr. Luidina. "Like those who are hyper, mild learners, have cerebral palsy, delayed speech and other disabilities."

Early detection of what is wrong with the child is important, the educator stresses: "We can do something if the problem is detected early. For example, if the speech of the child is delayed, or if he or she cries (and) you see the tears but there is no sound, it could mean the hearing is impaired. The parents should detect this by six months. We can cure this, the earlier the better. That's why we have an early intervention program. We accept infants at six months."

At Granada, the child is first trained to be aware of sounds. "This is auditory training, the oral approach," Embalzado says. "So we use many sound-makers."

A loop (writing) system has been installed in the classroom, which evokes a cheerful, playground atmosphere. The teacher wears a microphone, and the hearing aids of the children are adjusted so that a telecoil can be placed. This will enable them to hear the voice of the teacher without any distracting sounds.

"So they are no longer deaf-mutes. There are no deaf-mute children here," declares Embalzado. "We teach them to talk, we stimulate the language of the child. There are vocalization exercises, lip reading, plus the tactile approach (or touching the child)."

The average age of the pupils is six but an exception was made recently for a 12-year-old child from Bulacan, where there are no oral schools, according to the principal. The child needed a hearing aid, and only spoke by sign language; so she was accepted.

Every pupil has a case study, and before anyone is enrolled, the parents are interviewed by social workers. Classes at Granada are from the pre-nursery to the pre-kindergarten levels.

"Once we release the children they can study in a normal school," says Embalzado. "A child with a hearing aid is *parang* a child with weak eyesight who wears glasses." The parents are considered partners of the school, and are followed up at home.

"There are fast learners, slow learners and the average," the nun-educator points out. "So the parents should also expose them (to the environment), they can go to the malls and take in the sounds there. The lessons should continue at home. The mothers should be creative. Ideally, there should be a corner in the house where lessons can continue."

Embalzado concludes: "I tell the parents, don't rush the child, don't expect too much from your child. Expect surprises. It's all a challenge."

The Granada Educational Foundation is at 1126 R. Hidalgo, Quiapo, Manila. Call 7343174 or fax 7362938.

> Granada Educational Foundation believes children with special needs should get an education suitable to those needs

PUPILS at the V. Dignadice Elementary School in Ajuy, Iloilo, are the beneficiaries of a new reading program.

New partner joins Little Red Schoolhouse project

THE COCA-COLA Foundation Philippines Inc. (CCFPI) and the Department of Education have a new partner in their Little Red Schoolhouse Project, a school-building project.

Joining the initiative is the Sa Aklat Sisikat (SAS) Foundation, a private organization that aims to develop a love for and the habit of reading among public schoolchildren.

The Little Red Schoolhouse program has completed its target of 50 schoolhouses in remote rural areas. SAS has brought its reading program to pupils in 19 of the schoolhouses so far. The program will eventually benefit all 50 schools.

In addition, some 100 Little Red Schoolhouse teachers will be trained to become effective reading advocates.

SAS donates lavishly illustrated children's books in English and Filipino, mostly authored by Filipino writers. The books include Alfred Yuson's "The Boy who Ate Stars," Victoria Anonueva's "Si Pilandok at ang Manok na Nangingitlog ng Ginto" and Carla Pacis' "Mayroon Akong Alagang Puno."

CCFPI president Cecile Alcantara said with SAS, the Little Red Schoolhouse Project opened a new page in the campaign to help upgrade the state of public education.

The Little Red Schoolhouse Project, the flagship program of CCFPI, was launched in 1997. It aimed to build bright and modern schoolhouses .with some of the most motivated teachers in the rural public school system.

For its second phase this year, the project will continue to build schoolhouses and train teachers in remote and underserved areas in the country. As in the past, the three-classroom structures will be built in areas selected by DepEd.

All Little Red Schoolhouses are designed for the multi-grade method of teaching endorsed by the United Nations Children's Fund as the most cost-effective way of providing complete elementary education to as many children as possible. Under this system, two or more grade levels are taught simultaneously by one teacher.

CCFPI is a non-profit organization established in 1986 as the philanthropic arm of Coca-Cola in the Philippines. It aims to provide opportunities for quality education to young Filipinos, particularly in public schools.

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MARY Ann Reyes, senior manager for dealer sales; Annie Naval, VP for marketing; Angel Aquino; Dennis Dejeres, senior manager for international roaming; Menchie Briones, administration department AVP

GIGI Ibanez, IT department VP; Jane Quiambao, IT department AVP; Deeda Pama, senior manager for marketing acquisition

AT FESTIVAL Mall: Gerry Topacio, AVP for corporate sales; Reby Magtuto, VP for credit management; Michael Ligayo, national chain accounts officer

A burst of surprises from new mobile network

FIERY discounts and freebies, hot music and scorching fun were the highlights of the latest event from Sun Cellular, the nation's newest and most dynamic mobile phone network.

Billed "Sun Blast," the event was simultaneously launched nationwide from the most popular malls in Metro Manila to the trendiest places in Baguio, Cebu and Davao.

Angel Aquino graced the opening of "Sun Blast" at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, while TV personality Agot Isidro was the celebrity guest at Robinsons Galleria.

TV host Christine Bersola was in the Robinsons Dasmariñas launching, while Giselle Sanchez joined Davao's "Sun Blast" festivities.

It was a whole-day affair with cellphone fanatics gathering at the Sun Cellular booths inside the malls to avail of mobile treats like discounts of up to 60 percent on choice handsets, free phones for select Sun Cellular plan subscriptions and free extra prepaid phone kits for those who subscribed to plan P1,000 and up. Registration fees were also waived across all plans.

Afterwards, Sun Cellular kept temperatures soaring with a musical presentation featuring the JL Project at Shangri-La's Streetscape. Sun Cellular will be bringing top bands and artists to play at this venue every Friday and Saturday until Dec. 20.

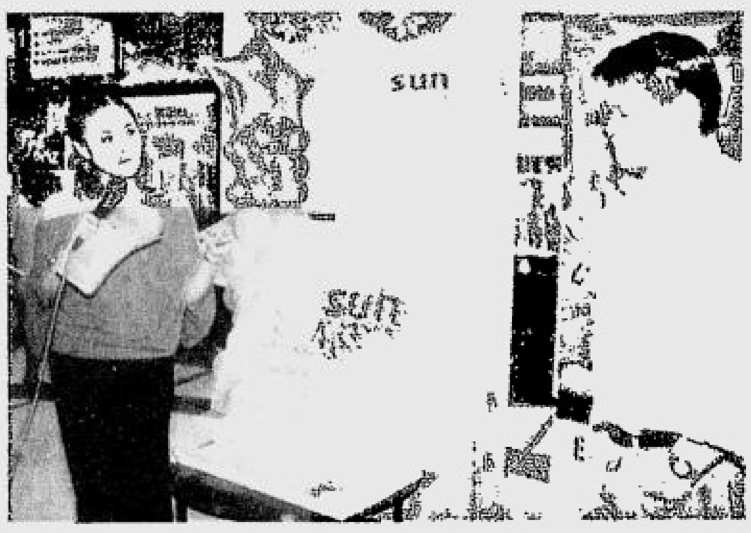
As if all these were not enough, "Sun Blast" is also launching a raffle promo with prizes like trips for two to Hawaii, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a home theater system, Playstation 2, CD Walkman, color TV, refrigerators and mobile phones.

For updates, visit Sun Cellular's website at www.suncellular.com or call the hotline at 3958000.

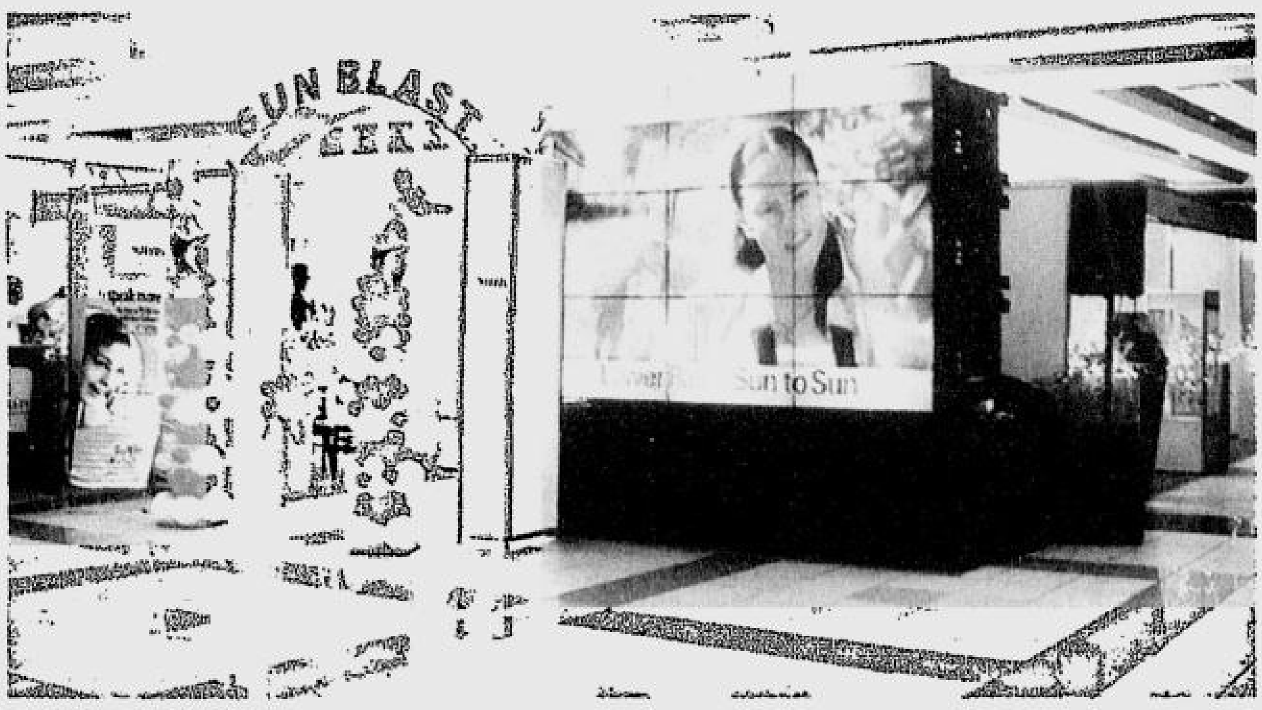
MARICRIS San Diego, AVP for marketing services; Robert Galang, AVP for dealer sales; Agot Isidro; Don Panlilio, VP for dealer sales; Ardie Balderama, AVP for marketing acquisition

ALVIN Bagasan, PR and media promotions manager; Giselle Sanchez; Junie Almonte of RSM Mindanao; and Sun Cellular employees

"SUN BLAST'S" musical showcase at Shangri-La Mall's Streetscape



AT ROBINSONS Dasmarinas: Christine Bersola; Bobby Aquino, senior manager for coverage planning and channels marketing



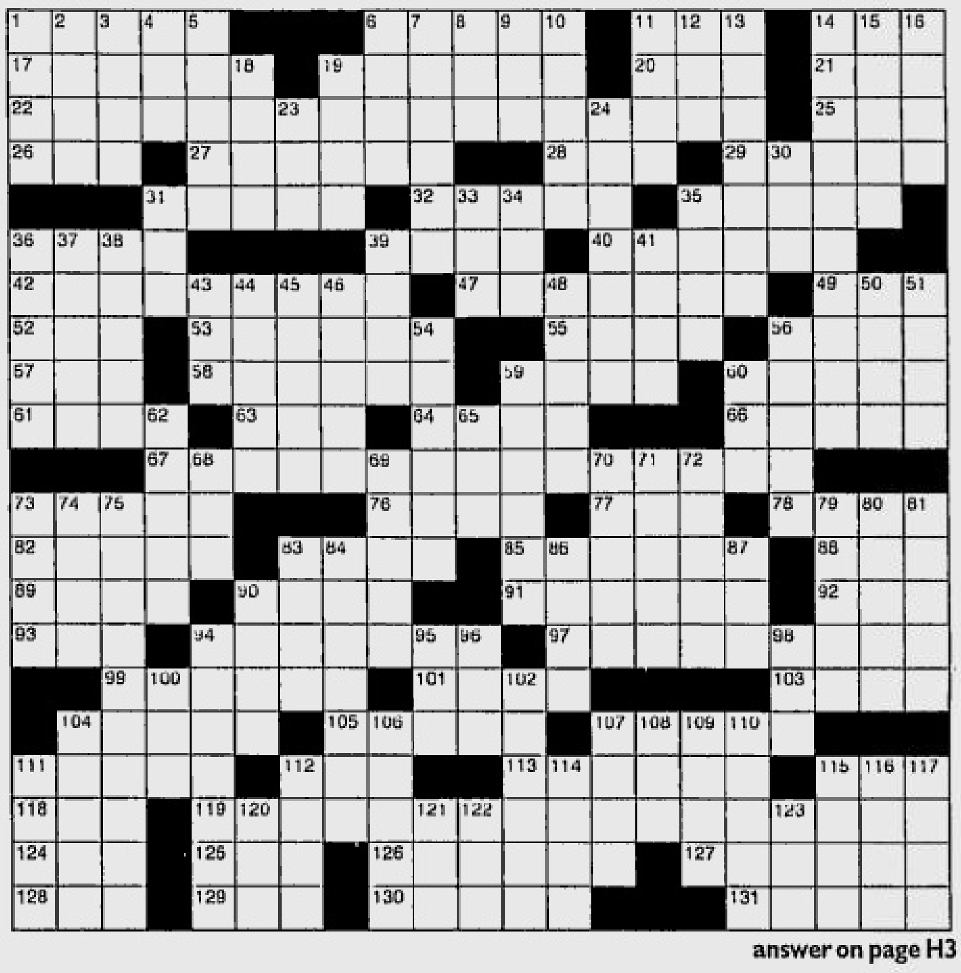
"SUN BLAST" at Robinsons Galleria

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone WAIST OF TIME

ACROSS
1 Marner or Lapham
6 Stiller's partner
11 Pickup part
14 ER staffers
17 "Oh, joy!"
19 "Lohengrin" composer
20 Indefinite pronoun
21 Lubricate
22 Start of a remark
25 It may be strapless
26 Rocker Benatar
27 Where to drink glogg
28 Face the pitcher
29 Concord
31 Velvety fabric
32 Based on eight
35 Onion roll
36 Besides
39 Taj town
40 Sherbet flavor
42 Part 2 of remark
47 Comic Coca
49 Breakfast meat
52 — -Magnon
53 Cram
55 Place a patch
56 Beauty spot
57 Table scrap
58 Gibson of tennis
59 "Red Red —" ('88 smash)
60 Michelle and Cass
61 Swarm (with)
63 Blunder
64 Santa's problem
66 Stadium
67 Part 3 of remark
73 Furniture wood
76 "— but known!"
77 Pro-gun grp.
78 Type of sailboat
82 Cut off
83 Cucumber-like
85 Bottoms
88 Word with cell or spell
89 Shoestring
90 Nav. warrant officer
91 Concerto — (Baroque form)
92 Actor Chaney
93 "For shame!"
94 Artist Antoine
97 Part 4 of remark
99 School supply
101 Attempt
103 Baltic city
104 Baby bird?
105 "Hedda Gabler" playwright
107 Standish's stand-in
111 Macaroni shape
112 Complete the cake
113 Actor Depardieu
115 Fin. expert
118 Dove's declaration
119 End of remark
124 Nav. rank
125 Swindle
126 Militia
127 Know-it-all
128 "A mouse!"
129 Herriman's "Krazy —"
130 See 15 Down
131 Actress Luft

DOWN
1 Freighter or ferry
2 Smidgen
3 Perplexed
4 Coach Parseghian
5 Kafka character
6 Lion's pride
7 Holiday spirit?
8 Whichever
9 Auto acronym
10 Antilles isle
11 Paint layer
12 Beattie or Blyth
13 Ballroom dance
14 Trailer
15 With 130 Across, '71 Eastwood film
16 Deal with a dragon
18 React to a bore
19 Extensive
23 — Buddhism
24 Chlorine or iodine
30 Henpeck
31 "The Bells" author
33 Dernier —
34 Flat hat
35 "— of Gold" ('70 song)
36 English course?
37 Peter of "Casablanca"
38 Smacked, in Scripture
39 Malarial fever
41 Monsieur Coty
43 TV-listing abbr.
44 Like Swiss cheese
45 Prelim
46 Indira Gandhi's father
48 Excludes
50 Freed or Thicke
51 Southwestern sight
54 Philosopher Blaise
56 Tie the knot
59 "A frog he would a- — go . . ."
60 — Tse-tung
62 Pooh's creator
65 Vintage
68 Born
69 Swiss river
70 Bestow
71 Actress Van Devere
72 Iranian language
73 Beer ingredient
74 Sitka's st.
75 Budget
79 Politician Stevenson
80 Treat unjustly
81 — Day George
83 Sheep shed
84 Big bird
86 Riyadh resident
87 Costa del —
90 Soak up some rays
94 "Walk on By" singer
95 Burro
96 Native American
98 Directional suffix
100 Outback critter
102 Cambodian site
104 Stowe sight
106 Upper or lower —
107 Part of M.A.
108 Frankfurter's field
109 Globule
110 Former Ford
111 "Behold!" to Brutus
112 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
114 Discern
115 Petrograd potentate
116 Sean of "I Am Sam"
117 Hammett hound
120 Shelley's "— Skylark"
121 Roth —
122 Neither's partner
123 Wedding words



answer on page H3

Cebu Marriott Hotel relaunches popular lounge bar

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE PALM Lounge of the Cebu Marriott Hotel was recently relaunched with a party at the foyer. Guests were asked to wear Hawaiian prints or safari outfits, and the most colorful of all was the GM himself, **Karl Hudson.**

A long list of newly concocted cocktails was served at the sitting bar, with visiting barman **Gerald Walker** (from Australia) presiding. You should see how he juggled bottles and stirred (not shook) the drinks.

Also on hand was the hotel's new executive chef, **Tom Hines,** who was congratulated right and left for the fabulous *pica-pica*.

Mayor **Tommy** and **Margot** dropped by, and later moved on to the Garden Café where **Boboy Atillo** and his son **Nico** were entertaining dear friends **Winglip** and **Pinky Chang, Tessie Javier, Peri Villarta** and more.

***

The Waterfront Cebu City Hotel had its own share of gastronomic events. F&B World was formally launched in Cebu at the hotel's Plush Del Sol suites, with editor in chief **Gia Herrera** present.

With her were sales and marketing director **Ria Yap,** who is from Cebu, advertising manager **Tin-Tin Hernandez** and marketing executive **Katrina Evangelista.**

Special guests who gave demos and shared their treasured recipes were **Penk Ching,** founder of Pastry Bin in Manila, and Via Mare's **Glenda Barretto,** who needed no introduction, being a legend in her own lifetime.

Glenda had gone to the local markets early that morning to source fresh ingredients for the dishes she prepared. As she did her presentation, she spiced up her talk with remembrances of Malacañang dinners, celebrities and her international accolade during the 1992 Expo in Sevilla (Spain), when there were long queues of diners day in and day out at her restaurant in the Philippine booth.

CONSUELO and Rex Reyes (seated) at their ancestral home with (standing) Loring Victorino, Lydia Abad, Manny Gonzalez, Gloria Escaño, Msgr. Roberto Alesna and Jo Magsaysay

AT the Madeleine opening—Renee Villasin, Sheila Simbajon, Charisse Que, Marco Protacio, Chinggay Utzurrum, Mayen Tan and Rexlon Gatchalian

The bread and pastry shop at the Waterfront has been rechristened Madeleine, and to officiate at the ceremony were news gals **Mayen Tan** and **Chinggay Utzurrum.**

No ribbon-cutting at this event, but a huge carrot cake to slice up. Assisting were executive VP **Rexlon Gatchalian,** GM **Marco Protacio,** PR girls **Charisse Que** and **Renee Villasin,** F/B manager **Sheila Simbajon** and executive chef **Dietmar Dietrich.**

There are lots of yummy treats at Madeleine, like the French muffin that gives the locale its name, and the Quiche Lorraine, which is the best in town. Another must-buy is the rye bread.

Next event at Waterfront's Café Uno was the launch of the Thanksgiving Buffet, as good an occasion as any for everyone to congratulate company president **Patrick Gregorio.**

Gregorio has been chosen as one of the country's Ten Outstanding Young Men for his work with the Cebu Visitors and Convention organization.

Also ongoing at the Waterfront is a Christmas Carol competition supervised by **Jeffrey Solares,** who directs the activities of the Peace Philharmonic. There are nightly performances at the lobby, with finals set for Dec. 23. The Peace Philharmonic will have its own Christmas concert there on Dec. 22. They will perform during the finals and accompany the three winning choirs in a Christmas Eve concert.

***

There's been a spate of birthday celebrations lately. **Amparito Lhuillier** gave a ladies luncheon at the Ma-yi fine dining restaurant of the City Sports Club in honor of her dear mom, **Nita Llamas,** who turned 85 but looks ever so lovely.

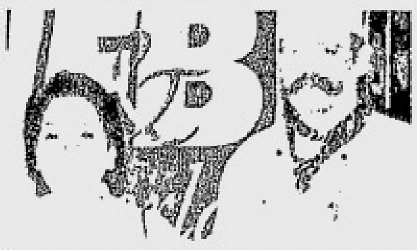
A resident of Las Vegas until recently, Llamas has moved to Cebu in a well-appointed condo at Maryville.

Milagring Sembrano celebrated her birthday with a lauriat at the Ching Palace, surrounded by her dearest friends. The Place looks exotic, with rare fish in huge aquarium tanks and cages containing birds of vivid plumage.

AT the Marriott's Palm Lounge—chef Tom Hines, Fe Sala Villarica and GM Karl Hudson

BIRTHDAY boy Alberto de Rotaeche surrounded by his wife Mari Tere, Joe Suaco and Inday Blanco

MILLIE Sembrano and dear friend Titang Cuenco Gonzalez



GLENDA Barretto and chef Dietmar Dietrich

For every guest, Milagring had a bag of "lanzones" shipped from Camiguin.

Consuelo Cuenco Reyes was honored on her 84th birthday with a mass of Thanksgiving followed by lunch, organized by her ever-loving husband, Capt. **Rex Reyes,** and their children—**Federico, Florentino** and **Teresita.**

It was a nostalgic occasion at the ancestral home of the family, one of the few mansions still extant at busy, busy Mango Avenue.

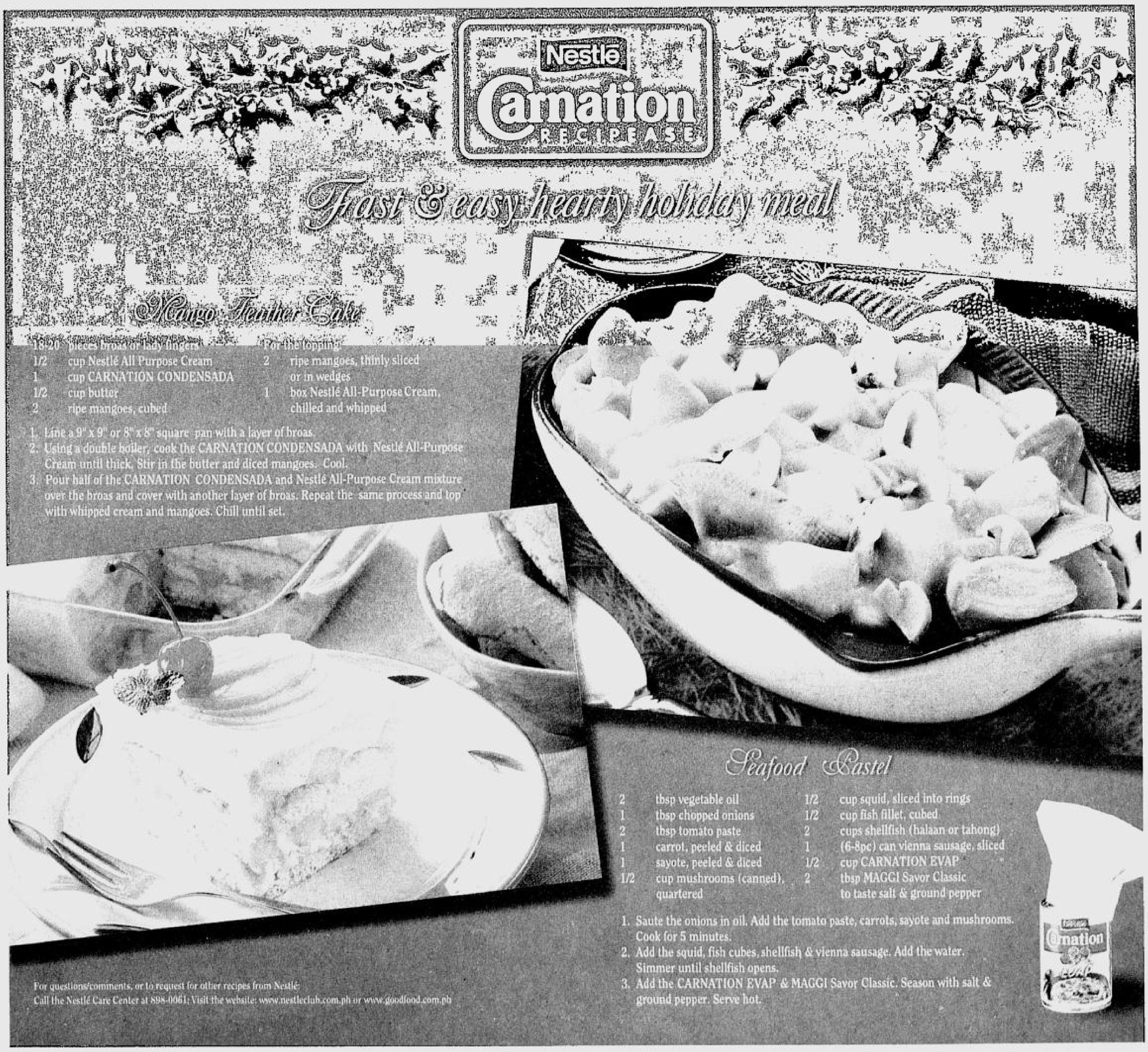
Ed and **Cely Chiongbian** share the same birthday, and they were happy to announce that they both turned 60 with a dance party at the Cebu Country Club.

The couple asked friends not to send them gifts, but instead donate generously to the St. Expeditus Foundation, which looks after indigent children admitted to the Vicente Sotto Medical Center.

Several couples we know may not have their birthdays on the same day, but quite close, like a few days or a couple of weeks apart—like **Ralph** and **Ellen Zuluaga.** His came first, and the celebration was at the Casino Español. Hers was an exotic Thai dinner at the Krua Tai in Crossroads.

And we also have **Alberto** and **Mari Tere de Rotaeche.** This time hers was first, at Eddie's Heritage Hotel, where the specialty was Corned Beef Oklahoma style. For Alberto, it was at their Guadalupe home, with specialties of the Moraza family on the buffet.

On the other hand, it was a cozy dinner at the Ginza Japanese restaurant for **Annabelle** and **Douglas Lu Ym,** with just a sprinkling of intimates. Their best friends came from Bacolod on a Lear jet, and flew back as soon as the party was over at 2 a.m.



Nestlé Carnation RECIPEASE

Fast & easy hearty holiday meal

Mango Feather Cake

18-20	pieces broas or lady fingers	For the topping:	
1/2	cup Nestlé All Purpose Cream	2	ripe mangoes, thinly sliced or in wedges
1	cup CARNATION CONDENSADA	1	box Nestlé All-Purpose Cream, chilled and whipped
1/2	cup butter		
2	ripe mangoes, cubed		

1. Line a 9" x 9" or 8" x 8" square pan with a layer of broas.
2. Using a double boiler, cook the CARNATION CONDENSADA with Nestlé All-Purpose Cream until thick. Stir in the butter and diced mangoes. Cool.
3. Pour half of the CARNATION CONDENSADA and Nestlé All-Purpose Cream mixture over the broas and cover with another layer of broas. Repeat the same process and top with whipped cream and mangoes. Chill until set.

Seafood Pastel

2	tbsp vegetable oil	1/2	cup squid, sliced into rings
1	tbsp chopped onions	1/2	cup fish fillet, cubed
2	tbsp tomato paste	2	cups shellfish (halaan or tahong)
1	carrot, peeled & diced	1	(6-8pc) can vienna sausage, sliced
1	sayote, peeled & diced	1/2	cup CARNATION EVAP
1/2	cup mushrooms (canned), quartered	2	tbsp MAGGI Savor Classic
			to taste salt & ground pepper

1. Saute the onions in oil. Add the tomato paste, carrots, sayote and mushrooms. Cook for 5 minutes.
2. Add the squid, fish cubes, shellfish & vienna sausage. Add the water. Simmer until shellfish opens.
3. Add the CARNATION EVAP & MAGGI Savor Classic. Season with salt & ground pepper. Serve hot.

For questions/comments, or to request for other recipes from Nestlé:
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Timeless art, benevolent ceramics

Cardinal Ceramics reproduces on plates the works of selected masters for Ayala Foundation

By Berry Marfori
Contributor

WHEN in Europe or the United States, pause before you grab that unique porcelain plate off the store shelf. You could be bringing home to the Philippines something that was made here in the first place.

For some time now, utilitarian porcelain pieces from Pinoy firm Cardinal Ceramics have been making their way to fine homes in the US, Britain, Belgium, Italy, France, Germany and other countries. Marketed by recognized brands, Cardinal's dinner sets, serving dishes, vases and the like have been meeting the aesthetic and functional standards of well-known names in home décor.

Three years ago, Cardinal porcelain was elevated into an art form when the Ayala Foundation, Inc. commissioned the company to reproduce the works of selected masters on specially produced plates. Distinctly square, the 31cm. x 31cm. plates have become collectors' items.

For 2003, leading portrait painter Romulo Galicano is the featured artist, after BenCab in 2001 and Anita Magsaysay-Ho in 2002. A member of the American Portrait Society who has earned an entry in Who's Who in International Art (1996-1997 Switzerland edition), Galicano presents a mother and child against a garden backdrop. Aside from the fact that each bloom and leaf is so painstakingly rendered and nuanced in color, the composition easily strikes a chord in the viewer's heart because of the milestone it celebrates. It is that moment when a child begins to see beyond himself and starts to recognize the intimate few who also share his universe.

Centers of excellence

Entitled "Morning Sunlight," the Galicano painting donated to the Ayala Foundation, Inc. has been reproduced not only in quality porcelain plates from Cardinal Ceramics but also in notebooks and note cards now being sold in Ayala Museum booths at the Glorietta 3 and Greenbelt. Proceeds from sales will be used for the operations of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education or Centex, a school for bright public school children from needy families operated by Ayala Foundation.

Currently, Centex has two campuses—in Tondo and in Bauan, Batangas. More Centex schools are being planned around the country where smart but poor kids can be trained for leadership.

According to Eric Oracion, production development director of Cardinal Ceramics, the Galicano plate is art that will endure the test of time, as well as the microwave, oven and dishwasher. He notes that its base is a porcelain plate made from a mix of special clays from Britain, Australia and Bicol and baked for over 30 hours to give it the strength of high-grade porcelain of international quality.

To produce the plate, special machines first formed the raw clay into the distinct square shape. The plates were then trimmed, polished and fired, the first time for 12 hours. Next, the plates were dipped in a glaze and baked again for another 16 hours. Only then were decals or special stickers with reproductions of the Galicano piece attached to each plate.

Artist's autograph

Galicano himself took the time to sign the back of the first 100 plates earmarked for the first 100 buyers right at the Novaliches factory of Cardinal Ceramics beyond the reach of cell phone signals and amid still-to-be-baked and baking porcelain destined for Europe. The artist used special brush and ceramic ink. With characteristic discipline, he put his mark on the back of each plate with flourish—over a hundred times.

Each signature demanded that he huddle over a plate for about two minutes while working with the special ink, a process that also required that he stretch his back after each exercise to relieve taut muscles.

Both the plates with and without signature were then returned to the oven once more for a final five-hour stretch to permanently affix all additions. Baked to withstand countless bouts with the dishwasher and oven like all good porcelain, the plates were finally packed into individual boxes designed for travel and covered with raffia for aesthetics.

TIMELESS/ J2

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Please answer YES, NO or MAYBE.

[yes]
OOFUN
Hey! What were you expecting... chocolates? Hehehe! Of course not! My kisses are much more sweeter! Mmmmwah!!! I LOVE YOU BABY!!

[maybe]
OOFUN
Awww... he looks so sad. He was really looking forward to give you my gift. Won't you accept it? Please say YES!

[no]
OOFUN
Huhuhu! I only wanted to make this day special. Please change your mind before he takes it all away to heaven. Please say YES!

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HUG4U	APPLE WORM	FART	LITTLE ANGEL	BEE MINE

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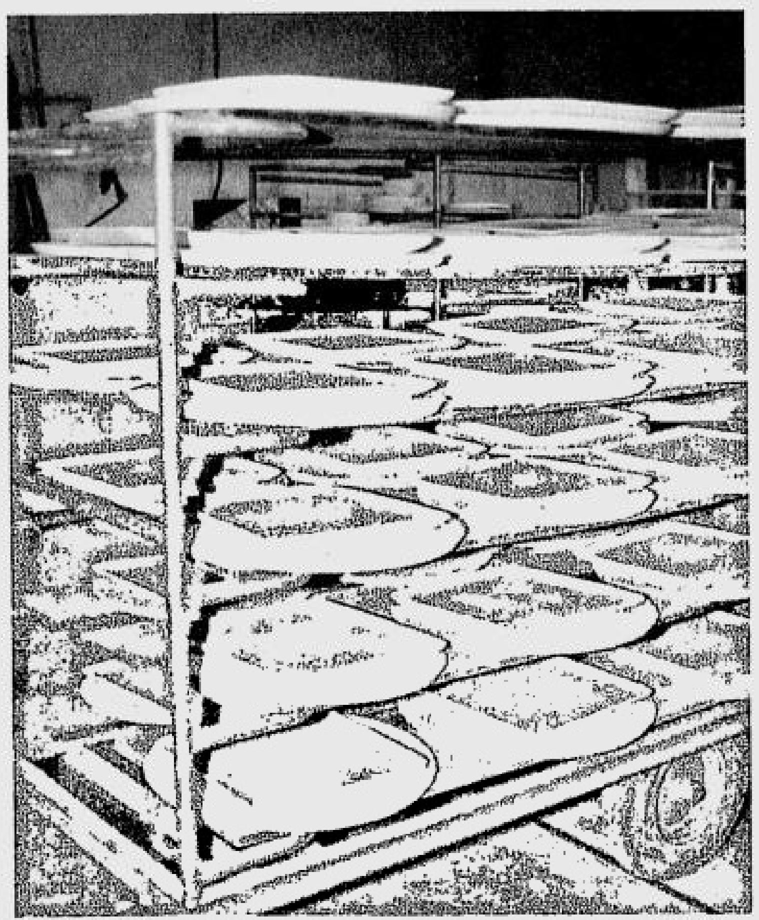
MOST Cardinal porcelain are made from a special mix of clays from Britain, Australia and Bicol.



THE PLATES turn white after they are fired for the first time for 12 hours.

AFTER they are trimmed and polished, the porcelain is fired in incredibly hot ovens at 1305 c. Note that water boils at 100c.

Timeless art, benevolent ceramics

From page J1

RP on the map

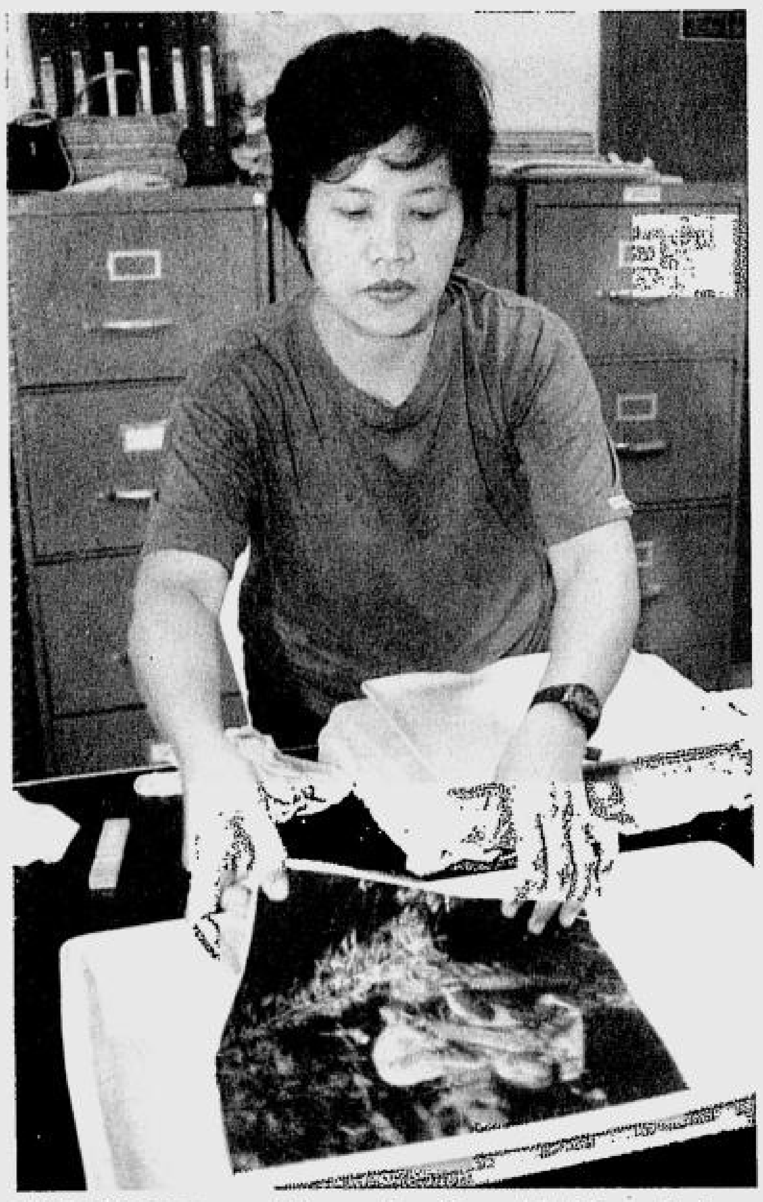
While Oracion believes there is a market abroad for Cardinal porcelain featuring reproductions of Philippine art, it is the firm's dishware that is already putting the Philippines in the home accessories and décor map. Cardinal's line of blue-and-white dinner and serving plates, for instance, is carried by Dansk stores throughout the US. The company has also produced piecès for Germany's high-end Villeroy and Boch as well as Lennox, an American brand that dominates the porcelain market worldwide.

Oracion says he often produces prototypes that become the inspiration for a whole line of dishware. He shows these to retailers abroad whom he visits two times a year. If they like what they see, the retailers will work further on the lines—refining certain pieces while adding others to suit the tastes of their particular markets.

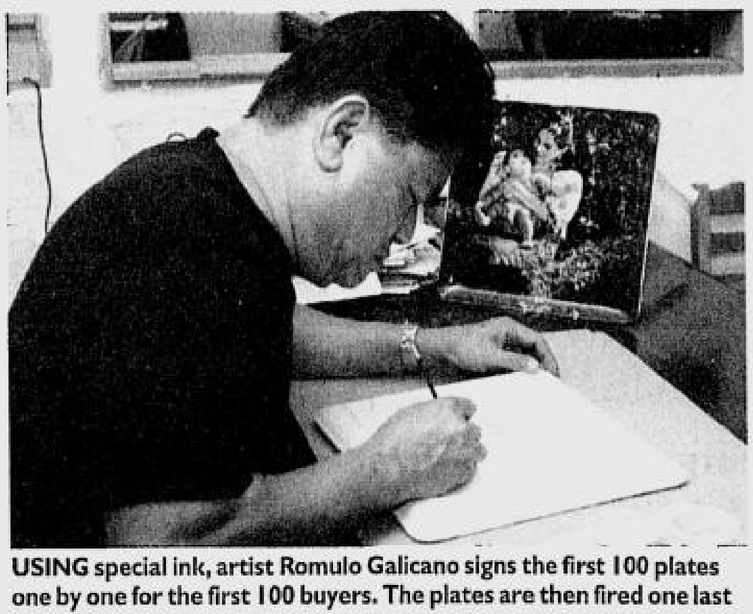
Cardinal's big hits in the world market have so far been the white ceramic line, each coming with a custom-made native basket, and the banana leaf series. The latter displays the parallel veins of the banana leaf and has become the favored "canvass" for the creations of chefs of the trendier upscale restaurants in Manila and other world capitals.

Oracion's latest baby is the brown sundial line inspired by the odd-shaped sundial shell of local snails—the kind that is delicious stewed in coconut milk. "You never go wrong when you copy from nature," smiles Oracion.

BECAUSE the length of baking and the intensity of heat affect the outcome of the final colors,plates may not turn out exactly the same. Only plates that pass the quality test are offered to the public.



THE GALICANO artwork is reproduced in special stickers called decals which are then stuck onto the plate.



USING special ink, artist Romulo Galicano signs the first 100 plates one by one for the first 100 buyers. The plates are then fired one last time for five hours to affix all additions.

MACHINES mold the clay into the desired shape.

THEY are dipped in glaze, then fired a second time for 16 more hours.

NGOs, foundations hold seminar-workshop

THE ASSOCIATION of Foundations, The Synergos Institute and ChevronTexaco, in cooperation with Caltex Phils Inc. and ChevronTexaco Malampaya, will hold the first Community Foundations Seminar-Workshop in the Philippines Dec. 9-11 at the Linden Suites.

Considered a first in foundation empowerment in the Philippines, the seminar-workshop brings together heads of community foundations, non-government organizations and provincial networks from Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. They will exchange ideas on sustaining local development.

Key speakers include Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, founder and chair of Pondong Batangas in Batangas. Launched in 1999, Pondong has collected over P13 million from 300,000 donors and given out P3 million to help poor Batangueños start up businesses.

The results of the workshop will be presented on Dec. 11. Marian Catedral, Caltex corporate affairs manager, said the activity would help address social development in this country and professionalize and strengthen the administrative capability of fledgling NGOs and foundations in the Philippines.

Among the NGOs invited to participate are beneficiaries of the Caltex Philippines' Caltex Fund such as the street-to-school program and the oil company's partners in environment and education projects.

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A ROSARY PILGRIMAGE
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BACK FROM ROSARY PILGRIMAGE

Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, newly appointed bishop of the diocese of Cubao, recently headed a pilgrimage group which visited different Marian shrines in Europe. Photo shows (front row, seated) Benjamin Alonzo, Heracillo Palad, Rogelio Gonzales, Celso Valdecañas and Mamerto Banatin; (second row standing) Anna Macaspac, Digna Calina, Jesusa Dizon, Norma Chan, Leonarda Rueda, Lourdes Valdecañas, Jovita Custodio, Bishop Ongtioco, Susan Edaño, Carmelita Lucas, Victoria Lozano, Fely de Vega, Imelda Palad, Aleli Alonzo and Violeta Tolentino.

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Waltermart Imus, Lopues South Square
Gaisano City Lapaz, Super Metro Mandaue

Dec 12-14
Ever Grand Central, Ever Ortigas
Ever Commonwealth, Pioneer, SM Sucat, SM Bicutan
CSI Lucao Dagupan, SM Iloilo, Waltermart Sta. Rosa
Waltermart Dasmariñas, Waltermart Lipa

Dec 13-14
SM City Mandurriao, Robinson's Bacolod
Food Savers Cebu

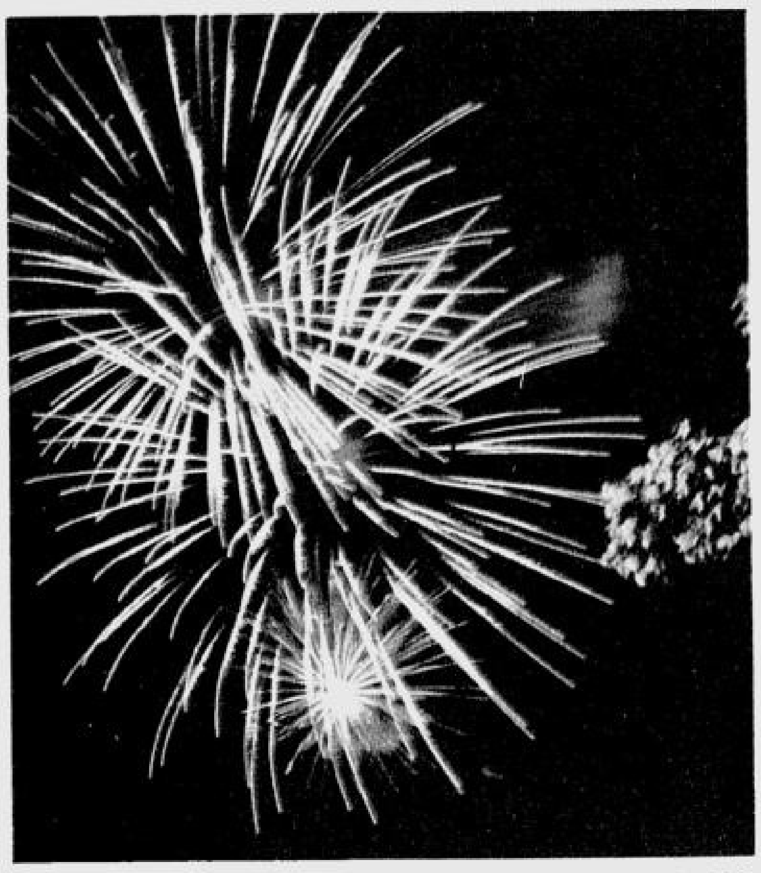
Dec 18-19
Gaisano City Roxas

Dec 19-21
South Malolos, South Alabang, Big R Cainta
Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Ermita
Metro Gaisano Cebu

Dec 26-28
SM Cebu, SM Cagayan De Oro

Dec 28-30
SM Davao

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 1056, Series of 2003.



FIREWORKS galore at Enchanted Kingdom from Dec 20-Jan. 4, 2004

THE NEW 4D Discovery Theater

Theme park lines up exciting events

NO Christmas celebration is complete without a visit to Enchanted Kingdom.

This December, everybody's favorite Holiday destination makes the season truly magical for young and old alike with a series of events that include bazaars, celebrity storytelling sessions, a choir festival, a bingo extravaganza and a special day with popular PBA stars.

These events kicked off last weekend with a celebrity bazaar put up by Mowelfund. "Starry Starry Stores" delighted guests with products and gift ideas from show biz personalities like Snooky Serna, Niño Muhlach, Erwin Tulfo, Romnick and Harlene Bautista, Lotlot de Leon and Janna Victoria, among others.

Celebrities Love Añover and Gina Alajar charmed children from a charitable institution with their storytelling gifts.

More exciting events have been lined up. Listen to your favorite Christmas carols at the Choir Festival on Dec. 7, 14 to 23 and 25.

On Dec. 13, get to meet the most popular PBA players at the Park. See them take time off from the basketball arena and join them in an exciting wall climbing tournament.

Asi Taulava will also play storyteller to a group of street children at the Bandstand at 4:30 p.m. He joins other 'celebrities like Luz Valdez (Dec. 7), Snooky Serna (Dec. 14), Elizabeth Oropesa (Dec. 15), Sandy Andolong (Dec. 16), Christopher de Leon (Dec. 17), Rez Cortez and Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo (Dec. 18), Bembol Roco (Dec. 19), Jeffrey Santos (Dec. 20), Bobby Yan (Dec. 27) and Tirso Cruz III (Dec. 28).

Meanwhile, big prizes await game lovers at the Bigtime Bingo, Dec. 14 at the Bandstand. Ongoing, too, is the Christmas Bazaar of regional products featuring unique finds from all over the country.

Kids will also love the magical World of Mad Science on selected days every 2 p.m. at the Bandstand.

Until Dec. 14, the Park is open five days a week: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Wednesday to Friday) and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday).

The Park will be open seven days a week starting Dec. 15-Jan. 4, 2004.

The special holiday schedule with extended park hours is as follows: Dec. 15-19, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Monday to Friday); Dec. 20 -Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-12 mn (Monday to Sunday); Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Wednesday).

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A PAINTBALL team prepares to attack as the action heats up at Enchanted Kindom.

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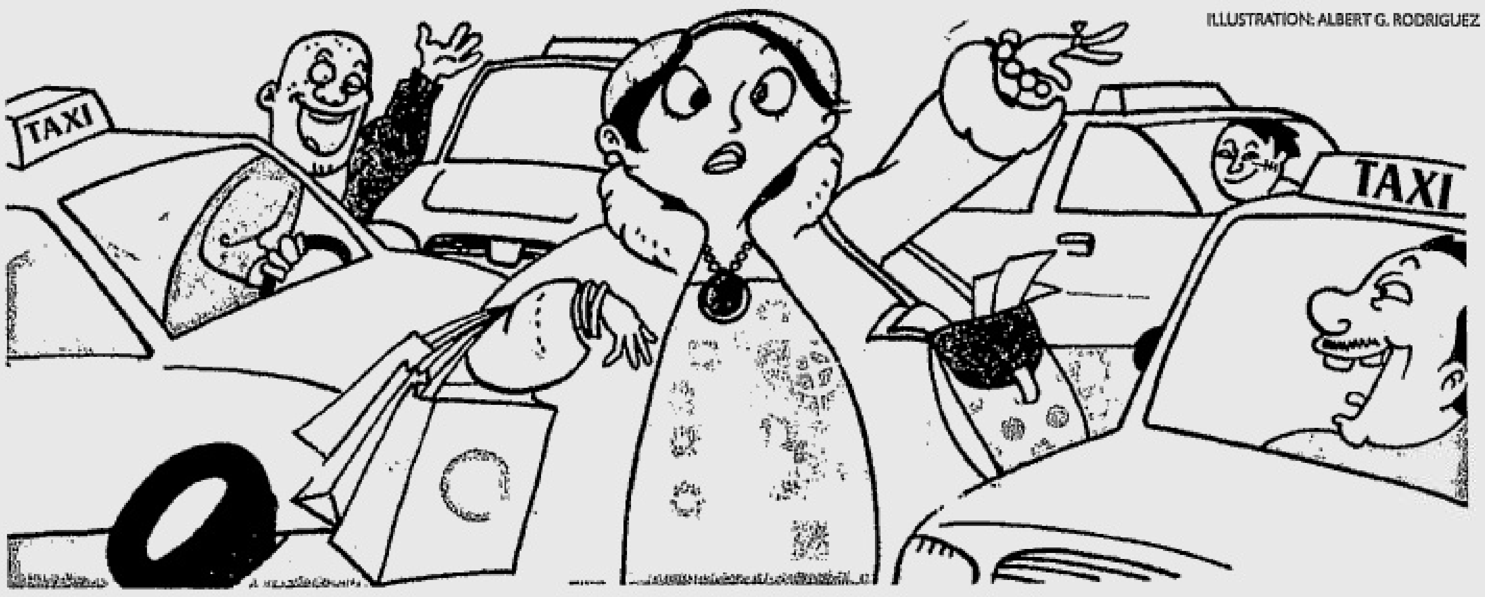

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

The more aware you are, the less likely you will become a victim

Don't be a holiday crime statistic!

By Anne A. Jambora

HOLIDAY bonuses are trickling their way down to every hardworking employee's pocket. While many people are busy thinking of ways to stretch that shrinking peso as far as it could go, others will be cooking up ideas to separate a distracted shopper from his/her hard-earned cash.

Kidnapping may be hogging the headlines these days but hold-up cases are also multiplying by the day.

Saddled with heavy shopping bags, commuters will probably find the comforts of a taxicab more inviting. But how safe is the road home in this supposedly season of abundance and celebration?

One of the most terrible ordeals is a taxi hold-up, whether the driver is an accomplice or not. The physical, mental and emotional stress can hardly be put into words—if one lives to tell the tale.

Though the statistics have been going down the last couple of months, Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco of the Philippine National Police-National Capital Regional Police Office (PNP-NCRPO), now the executive director of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, says the public can never be too complacent. Stats might change, he adds, especially during the holidays.

"*Maging pihikan tayo doon sa sasakyan natin na* taxi," Velasco says.

And be wary if the car body looks tampered with, its name or license plate is faded. Never hail cabs in dark, secluded areas. Stay with a crowd so that psychologically the driver knows there will be many possible witnesses. Remember, there's safety in numbers.

Prevention

Velasco believes the most effective way to avoid a crime is prevention. Presence of mind is important, he says. Criminals often use the element of surprise to commit a crime, so train yourself to be always alert to your surroundings.

It's a habit of mind, a skill that can be mastered. The more aware you are, the less likely you will become a victim.

Learn to trust your first instinct because nine times out of 10 it's correct. If something does not feel right—say, the driver seems too anxious or nervous—don't persuade yourself into believing otherwise.

Heed your gut-feel. Many victims often make the mistake of ignoring it. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Make yourself a poor target. People who look like good victims usually make good victims. "When flagging down taxis, dress modestly. Don't give hold-up men the opportunity or motivation to rob you," Velasco says.

You don't have to look like a pauper. Just avoid looking like you're loaded, such as wearing too much jewelry, because whether or not you have cash with you is irrelevant, the PNP official says.

Hold-up men today will lead you to a remote ATM so you can withdraw cash. Avoid carrying ATM cards whenever possible, and credit cards, too. Although you're not going to shop with the criminal, you're going to make cash advances.

Pepper sprays, stun guns and other self-defense devices are fine as long as you know how to use them. And even if you do, overwhelming fear and panic can render them useless. By the way, any weapon you carry may also be used against you.

Call/txt 117

"Always tell someone where you are—call or text them—especially when you're traveling alone," says Velasco.

He says commuters can also text or call 117 during transit since there are now plenty of motorcycle-riding policemen.

"Text your location, general vicinity, taxi name and plate number, and direction," Velasco says. "*Puwede bang bantayan ito dahil mukhang masama yung balak?' Sigurado ipapasa agad sa* police *na pinakamalapit yan.* "

Reaction time for 117, says Velasco, is four to five minutes on the average, but he hopes to improve it to three minutes. Every barangay tanod is prepared for emergencies. (Reaction time, however, will depend on location.)

But in case you find yourself trapped in a taxi hold-up, try to remain calm. That's not easy, of course, especially when a gun is pointed to your head.

Keep yourself busy by focusing instead on what is going on around you, such as noting the felon's height, weight, age and other unusual physical traits. This will come in handy when you report your case to the police.

"You can't just point to a guy in a lineup when you're not sure just because you're angry," Velasco says.

Talk to the felons, appeal to their emotions, tell them about your family, your plans—anything—and find a connection. Perhaps you come from the same province? Keep them talking. This way you will cease to be an object and become "human" in your attacker's eyes.

Life comes first

Take note of speech nuances like enunciation, dialect and diction. Comfort yourself with

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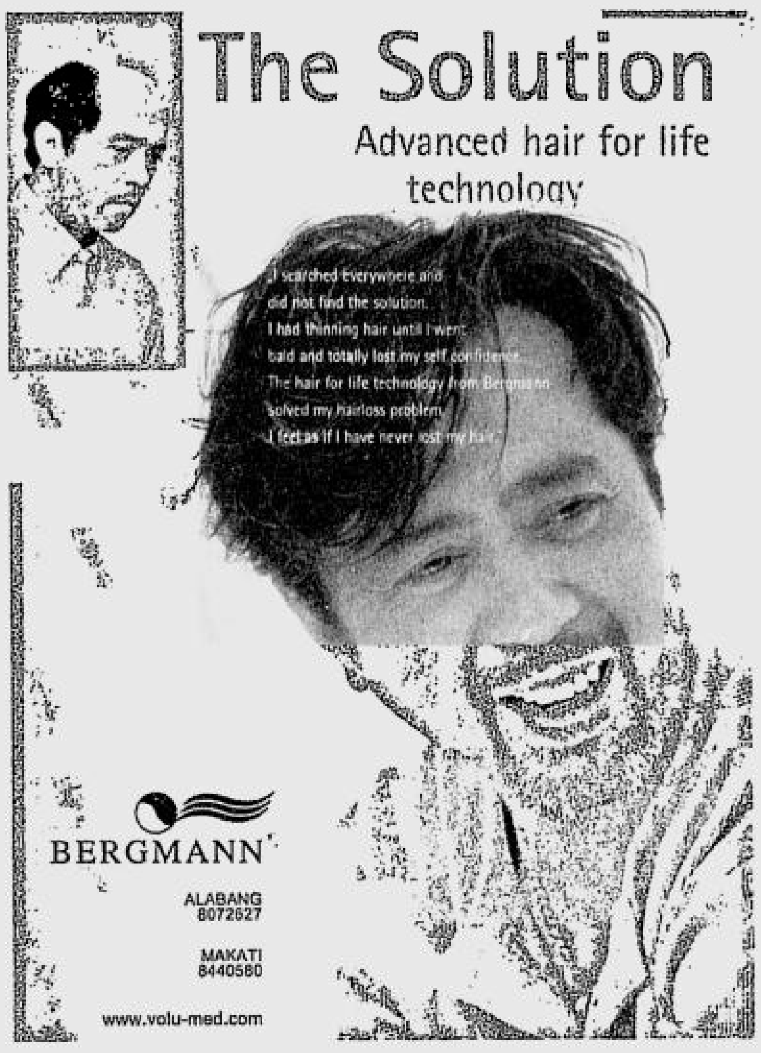
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Killing An Arab	The Cure	MTONE ARAB
On Broadway	George Benson	MTONE BWAY
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O Holy Night	Traditional	MTONE HOLYNIGHT
Jingle Bells	Traditional	MTONE JINGLEBELLS
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O Little Town Of Bethlehem	Traditional	MTONE OLITTLE
Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer	Traditional	MTONE RUDOLPH
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Silent Night	Traditional	MTONE SILENTNITE

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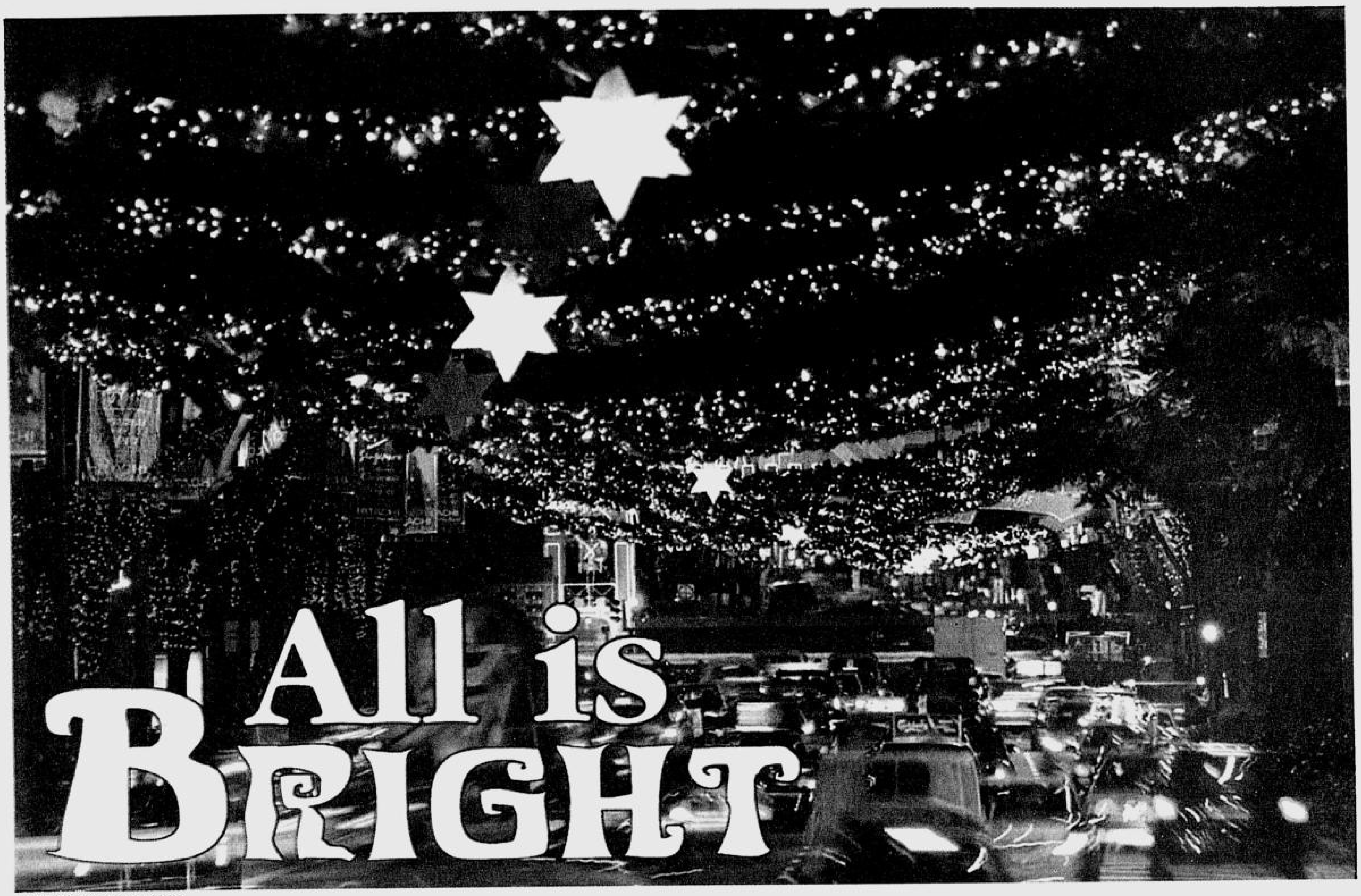
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

All is Bright



THE TINSEL, tassels, stars...

By Rosario A. Garcellano

THE LIGHTS are on in case the message has yet to hit home: It's Christmas in Singapore and all is bright.

The stores are resplendent, the arches are up and in shimmering color, the tinsel, tassels, stars, balls, garlands, fringes, fairy lights and all the beloved doodads of the season are on display—feast for the eyes and fire for the heart.

The weather may be tropical and you may be sweating in a happy crush of shoppers, but a tree powdered with "snow" suddenly materializes in your direct line of vision. There's a trill of sleigh bells in your ear and, for good measure, the timeless lilting invitation couched in impeccable rhyme: "Outside, the snow is falling/And friends are calling' yoo-hoo/C'mon, it's lovely weather/For a sleigh ride together with you."

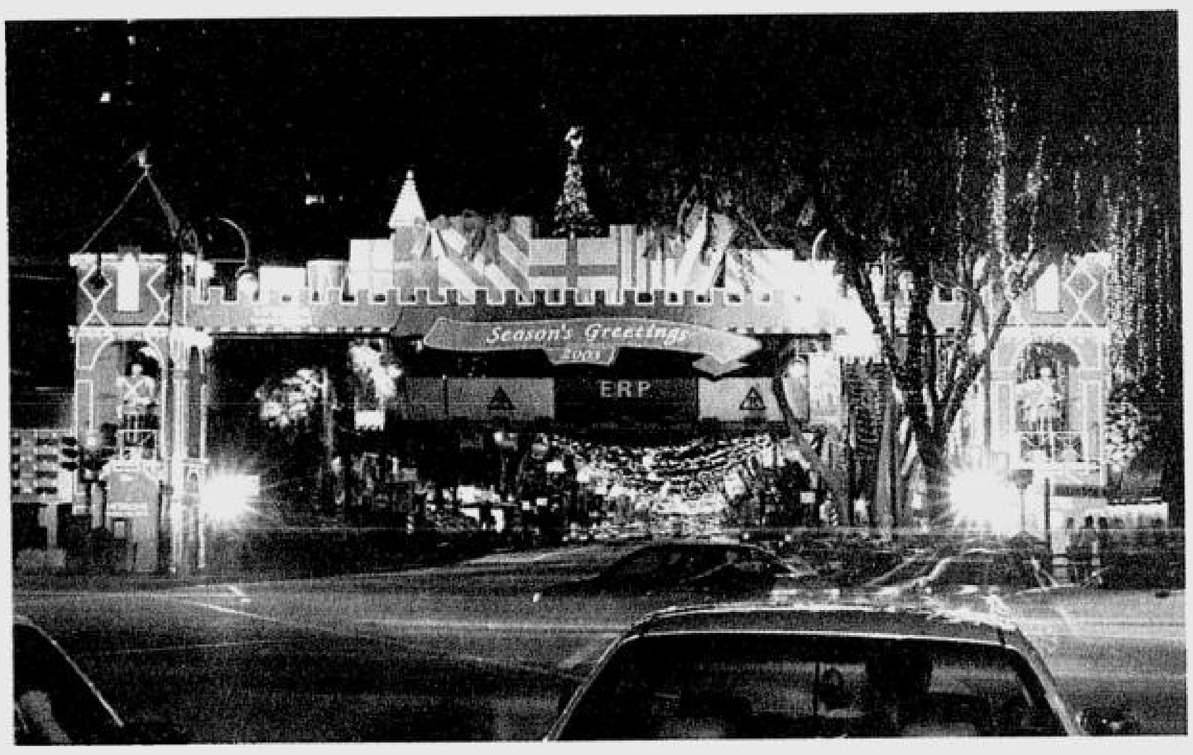
The Christmas Light-Up ceremony has been a big thing in the city-state for 20 years. This year's event—dubbed "Christmas in the Tropics" and a prime part of the "Singapore Roars!" campaign aimed at drawing six million visitors by the end of the year—was officially launched Nov. 14 at the Civic Plaza in Ngee Ann City, with President SR Nathan in attendance. Now the lights dazzle nightly at Tanglin, Orchard and Scotts Roads, and will continue to do so until Jan. 5.

It's evident that the Singapore Tourism Board has pulled out all the stops to make this year's Light-Up more spectacular than the previous ones. The campaign is, after all, part of the vigorous campaign to recover from the nightmare of SARS that took the wind out of the regional tourism industry's sails.

Consider these specs for the decorations on Orchard Road, endearing for the minutiae: garlands spanning 4,590 meters, with red-gold fabric; 25 poinsettias per garland; "to create the starry light ambience," 2,540 yellow/blue lights; 8,160 meters of fairy lights; 27,200 tinsel balls on garlands; 115 three-dimensional fiberglass stars.

And what about the 32 strobe lights to circle a Christmas tree, and the 1.2-meter-wide mirror ball "to reflect light spots and create the snow effect"? (The attentive visitor will detect a determined effort to regale, say, Westerners with the familiar yearend sights and sounds of home, never mind that they may be fleeing the bitter cold that snow represents and anticipating a holiday distinctly different from what they know.)

The Light-Up comes with assorted promotions and "SurPrizes" for both locals and visitors. Right at the Changi airport until Dec. 25, visitors are presented booklets containing dining and shopping vouchers for use in their forays to the commercial district, where, not incidentally, giant gift boxes wait. There's even a photo contest for shutterbugs! And on the side, there's a "You're OK" drive that amply rewards (complete with a clangorous lion dance) the lucky soul who turns out to be Visitor No. Something-something.



...TREES and arches...

To be sure, shopping acquires a sharper edge of excitement in this festive season. The till-you-drop types will naturally follow their killer instincts in this pocket of prosperity where the big names rule and the consumer is king or queen, but you can also check out the duty-free items at the cavernous, multi-level DFS Galleria Scottswalk, jewelry at value-for-money Larry, ten thousand items at Tangs, or treasures between covers (what joy to find Joan Didion's latest, "Where I Was From") at good old Borders.

Or, if you please, wander into the Opera Gallery Singapore at Takashimaya, where Monsieur Stephane Le Pelletier will walk you through Miro's watercolors, Chagall's harlequins, Warhol's daisies and—sigh—Botero's man with a guitar.

Or case the new joint Inez at the Paragon, all 250 square meters of cool, offering clothes, accessories, bling-blings, skin care products and cosmetics. The idea is to indulge the consumer in exquisite stuff from head to toe—and there's plenty of room to browse and linger over sequined stilettos. (A sampling of the brands: Valentino Red, Shoshanna, Christian Lacroix, Ice Jeans by Iceberg, Byblos, O. Also: CEL jewelry and IZU cosmetics. The range of prices? Around $150 for a top to about $3,000 for a beaded evening dress.)

Eyes glazing from this embarrassment of riches and hankering for down-home eats? Take yourself to the Boon Tong Kee Pte. Ltd. on River Valley Road for Singapore's famous chicken rice, whose secret, so they say, is in the marinade. (If you're vegetarian, you can order the tofu and broccoli.)

Have coffee and pastries at the delightful Tong Heng on South Bridge Road, which has an 80-year history that started, in the manner of a saga, with a pushcart peddler in Chinatown in 1923. The multi-awarded bakery produces an average of 26 kinds of pastries daily, including dumplings with assorted fillings, walnut cookies, the inexplicably named wife's biscuits, Kaya French toast (with, it's said, a secret ingredient), and its *pièce de résistance*—diamond-shaped egg tarts.

On the high end, try out My Humble House at The Esplanade, truly far from humble with its long tables and high-backed chairs, diaphanous purple curtains, and picture windows that present a dramatic view of the city and the river. (Shortly before December pranced in, maple leaves specially flown from Shanghai adorned the foyer cum bar.)

To rest your weary head, there's the trendy The Gallery in the heart of Robertson Quay, where Fay G. Lugue, proudly Filipino, is sales and marketing director. The 10-story "hip-art" hotel has, among the standard amenities, 24-hour broadband Internet access and state-of-the-art phone and voice mail systems.

Party animals and other in-house guests can look forward to holiday treats at the hotel, particularly during Dec. 19-25 when Christmas minced pies and cookies are part of the bonus. And if you're nursing a hangover (or a heartbreak), you can have brunch in bed on New Year's Day.

The good part is that you can get anywhere safely and conveniently from points A to Z and everything in between on the MRT, a bus, a taxi, or on foot. Everything, including the traffic lights, works. There are no abandoned excavations on the streets, no billboards and streamers with some politician's name and face. There is greenery everywhere; there are sidewalks to walk on.

You can talk into your cell phone at an intersection brimming with people, and you won't be chilled by a knife pricking your side and a voice demanding that you hand it over. You can emerge from the day's last screening of Anthony Hopkins and Nicole Kidman in "The Human Stain," and be assured that you can muse on the misery of it without getting mugged.

Where there are dark corners, there are lights. In short, it's entirely possible to enjoy the holidays. (But come loaded. And wear comfortable shoes.)

...AND garlands, fringes and fairy lights of the season

TRAVELBRIEFS

New museum

THE RIZAL and Intramuros Light and Sound Museum was formally opened last week by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

The first of its kind in the country, the museum located at Sta. Lucia corner Victoria Streets in Intramuros, Manila, is intended to inspire Filipinos to learn from the lessons of the past, according to the Department of Tourism.

It is expected to provide another attraction in the historic Walled City, which hosts regional trade fairs and cultural activities all year.

The museum depicts three periods of Philippine history—the pre-Spanish era, the colonial period, and national hero Jose Rizal's "psychological triumph" over the Spanish conquerors, which, Gordon said, would give Filipinos a sense of national pride and esteem particularly in these trying times.

Hotel launch

THE FORMER Lai Lai Garden Hotel on Ongpin Street in historic Binondo has been renovated and launched as the Binondo Suites.

The hotel has 79 rooms with cable TV and IDD telephone; an all-day dining café; and a business center that offers secretarial assistance, graphics/production services, courier service, word processing and equipment rental.

Points of interest are within reach—the bargain centers of Divisoria, the novelty shops of Quiapo, the Bahay Tsinoy Heritage Museum in Intramuros, and the clubs and promenades of the Bay Area.

Binondo was established in 1594 by the Spaniards as a special place for the Christianized and mestizo Chinese, and through the centuries built its name as a center for business and trade. It became Manila's first commercial capital in the 1850s.

Don't be a holiday crime statistic!

From page K1

the thought that they will not hurt you unless you resist or provoke them. Their object is to steal, not to hurt you.

Obey their commands. If they say don't look, don't. Do exactly as ordered, and keep your hands in sight. Never make sudden movements or you might startle them into shooting you. If you have to, ask permission first, and be polite.

Don't argue with an armed criminal. When facing a weapon, the odds are against you.

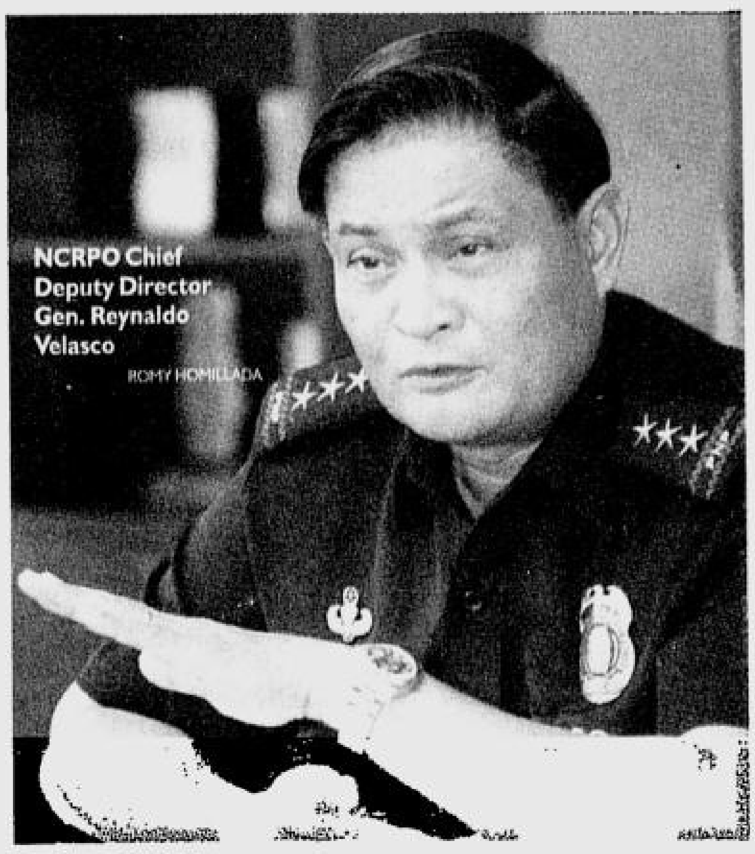
What is important is to save your life and minimize the possibility of injury. "Your life is more important than your cell phone or money," he adds.

Criminals have certain peculiarities in plying their "trade"—habits, techniques or procedures, known as method of operation. Make a mental note of these. Velasco says criminals never deviate from their system.

Note, too, the taxi's description: make (Toyota), year (1996), model and color.

After the crime, immediately report to the police. Success rate for reported cases, says Velasco, is 30-70 percent, depending on the information the victim supplies. "We have records. *Makikita yan sa* investigation, *pati mga kasama nya.*" The apprehension of one felon, can prevent the commission of several other crimes, Velasco says.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



NCRPO Chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco

ROMY HOMILLADA

ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Fast tips to cab-riding shoppers

BEFORE you get in that cab, here are 8 some things to remember:

Have presence of mind—it's a habit and a skill that can be mastered.

Trust your first instinct. If something doesn't feel right, heed your gut-feel.

Make yourself a poor target. Don't attract hold-up men by looking loaded.

Leave your ATM cards and credit cards whenever possible.

Carry self-defense devices like pepper sprays and stun guns only if you know how to use them.

Always tell someone where you'll be and where you are.

Hail a cab in well-lit places where there are other people who can serve as future witnesses.

If you suspect trouble, text your location, general vicinity, taxi name and plate number, and direction to 117.

And here are a few tips you can give yourself, not the cabbie, in case of a hold-up:

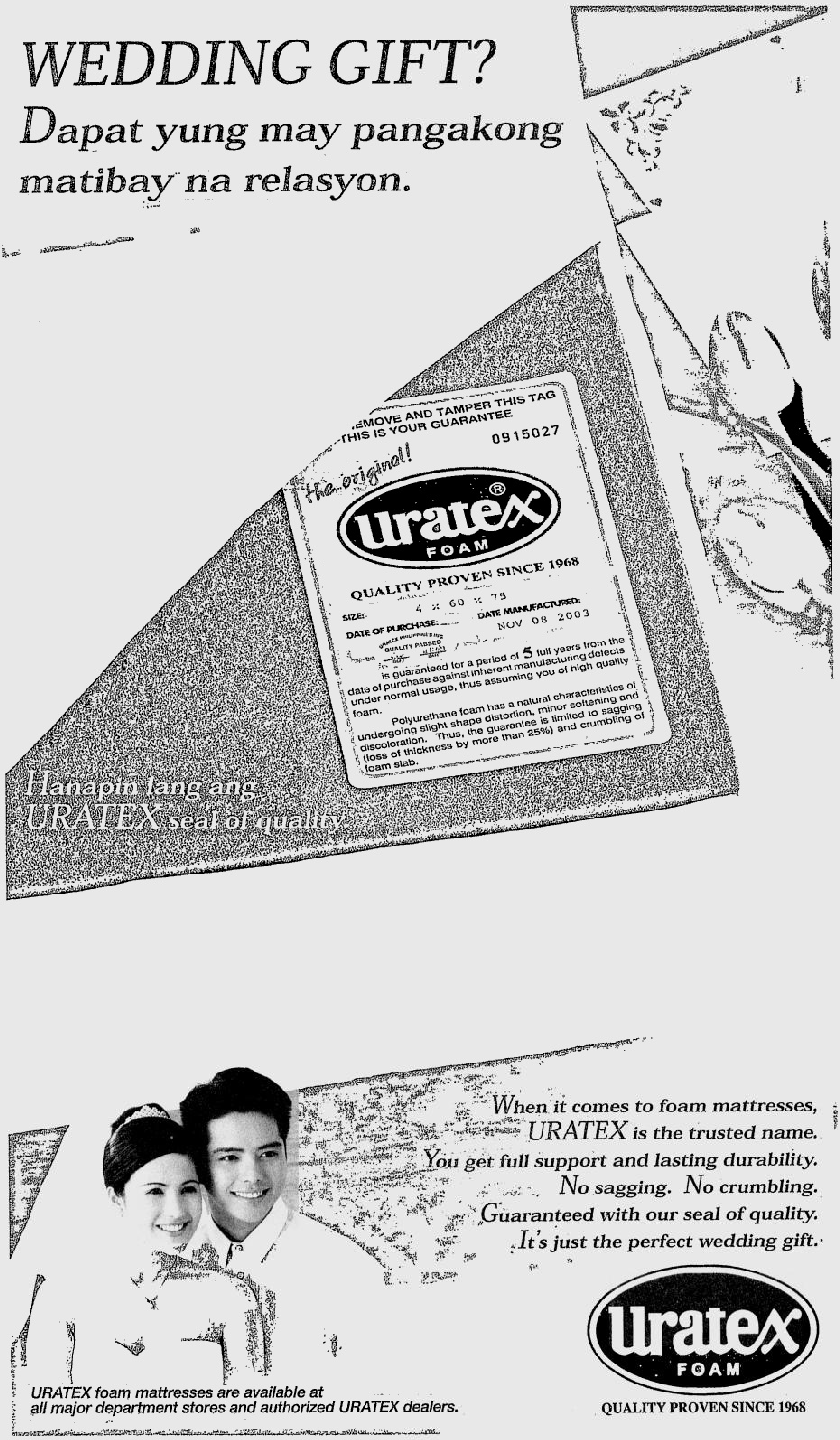
Stay calm.

Note the felon's height, weight, age, unusual physical characteristics, speech nuances and method of operation, as well as the taxi's make, year, model and color.

Make your attacker see you as a human being instead of object by talking to him and appealing to his emotions.

Do exactly as you're ordered—don't argue with an armed criminal.

Immediately report to the police.



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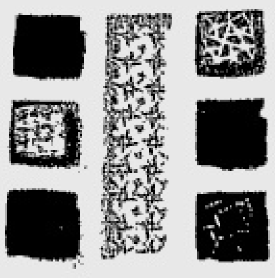
Wendy's
HAMBURGERS

It's The Best Time For Wendy's

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LifeStyle

Great news for chocolate lovers: The bald man is in town, and Lifestyle got to preview the goods



SWEET TREAT. These pralines are rich, creamy and deadly.

MAX BRENNER promises a unique chocolate experience.

Willy Wonka for adults

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

HERE'S news to make chocolate lovers swoon: Max Brenner is in Manila.

The world-renowned chocolate-maker has chosen Greenbelt 3 as the new home for his chocolate bar.

Filipinos better brace themselves. The Max Brenner experience will change the way they look at chocolate.

Making chocolate was never Brenner's ambition when he was young. Sure, there were childhood moments revolving around the sweet treat, but his heart was set on writing.

"I wanted to write a novel," he tells Lifestyle.

After finishing the required three-year stint in the Israeli army, Brenner enrolled in a pastry course to receive benefits from the government.

"I never cooked before but I took pastry because the other courses were horrible, like car mechanics."

Little did he know that step would lead to a life-changing path.

After the course, he heard about a chef who worked in the mountains of Austria and decided to live there for a while, not because he fell in love with making pastries but because he saw it as a way to fulfill his dream. "I thought the place would inspire me to write."

But his passion for words gave way to his passion for food.

"As they say, life is what happens when you're busy making other plans," Brenner says with a smile.

Working with chefs—including Michelle Chaudon, Fauchon and Georg Maushugen—opened a lot of doors for him. "I worked with different chefs and was able to travel a lot. I was able to go to so many good restaurants and places. I was exposed to a ton of flavors."

Romantic

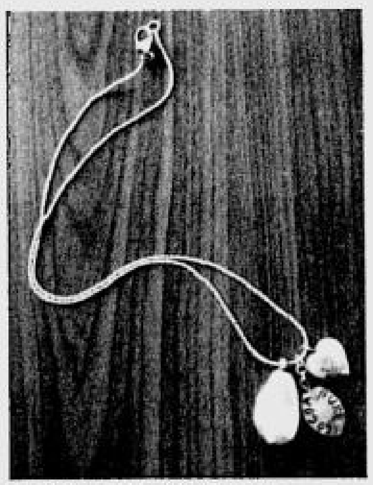
After spending two years in Paris, he went back to Israel. A friend first approached him with a business idea.

"He said, 'Let's open a business. You bring the knowledge and I'll bring the money.' I was about 27 at that time. We had $20,000. That wasn't a lot to start a business with in Israel, but we did it."

Brenner has a number of reasons for going into the chocolate business.

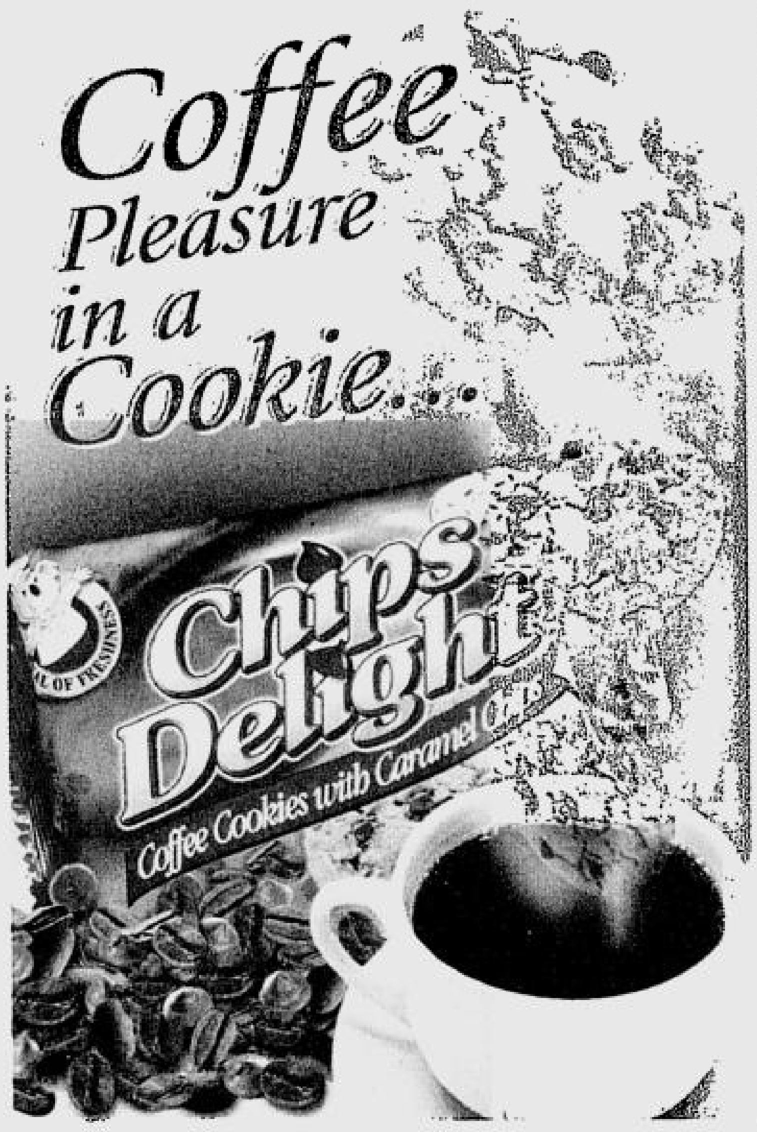
"First, I'm very romantic —in the wide sense of romanticism," he says. "The making of handmade chocolate to me is something very nostalgic. Chocolate is, like, from the old days, when people were making their own candies—there's a very strong sense of romanticism. All the childhood memories, all the most beautiful gifts—it's a very powerful food in a way. I cannot compare it to any other food—to sweet cream or meat. There are feelings in this product... The ability

WILLY/L2



LUCKY CHARM. Max, his parents and his brother wear identical necklaces.

MAX'S CLONES. All the waiters are bald— something you can only find in Max Brenner's Chocolate Bar in Greenbelt 3.


Coffee Pleasure in a Cookie...
Chips Delight
Coffee Cookies with Caramel Chips

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YULETIDE PARTY PACKS
PARTY PACK #1
P88
PARTY PACK #3
P128

2 pcs. Krispy Chicken, Solo Mashed Potato, Steamed Rice, Orange Juice

*Add P10.00 for softdrink in can

1/4 Classic Roast Chicken* (Equivalent to 2 pcs) Solo Corn & Carrot Nibblets, Steamed Rice, Corn Muffin, Choco Mousse w/ Orange Juice

*Also available in Krispy Chicken *Add P10.00 for softdrink in can

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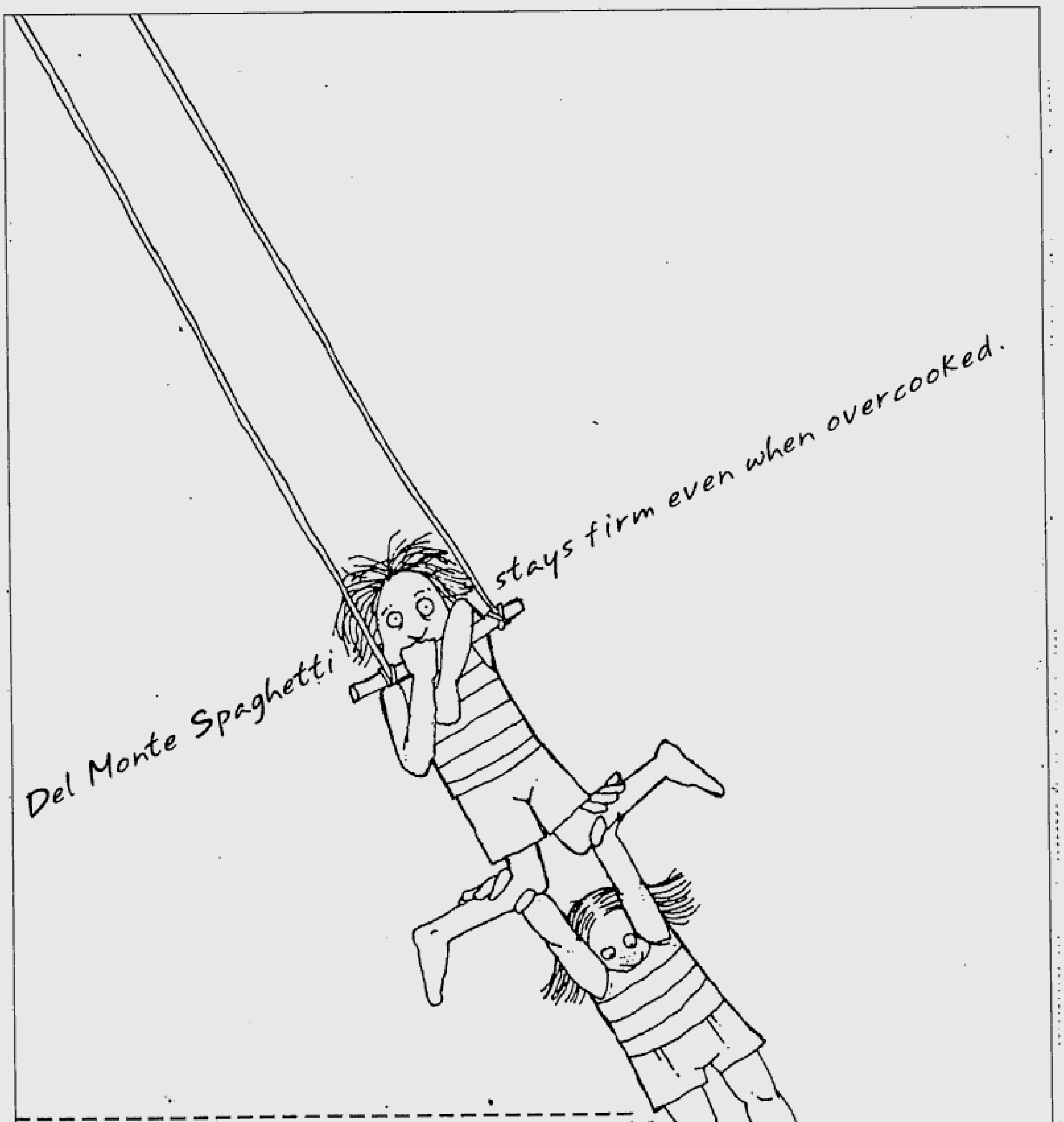

Del Monte Spaghetti stays firm even when overcooked.

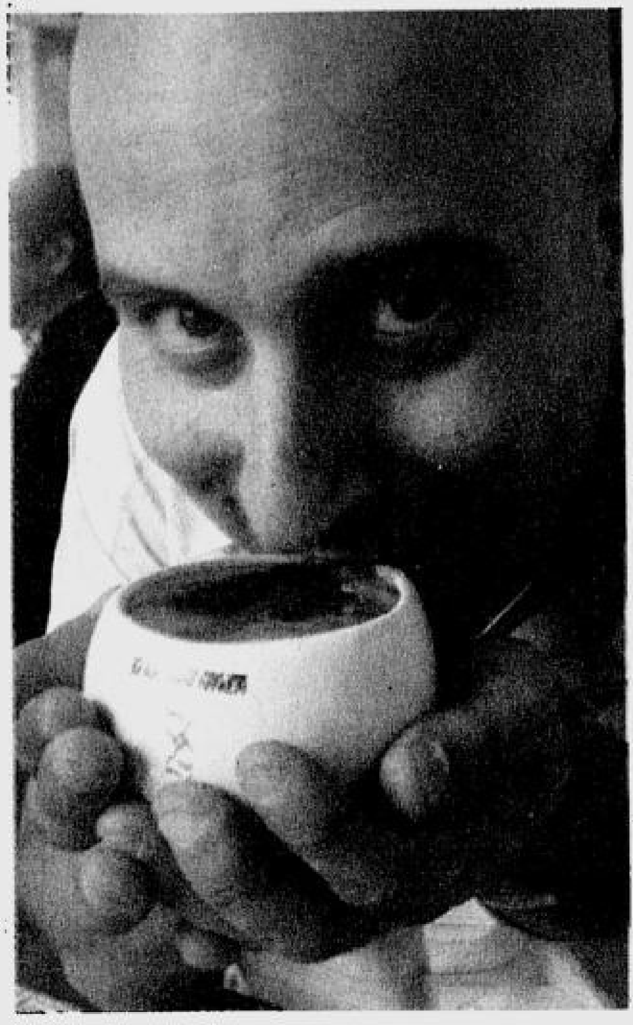
Pasta Tuna Ala Pobre

250g	DEL MONTE Spaghetti, cooked per package directions
1 head	garlic, crushed
1/3 cup	margarine or butter
1 cube	chicken bouillon
1 can	(184g.) tuna chunks in oil (include oil)
2 stalks	green onions, chopped
1/4 cup	parmesan cheese (optional)

1. Brown garlic in margarine and set aside half for topping. Add bouillon cube, tuna (with oil) and half of green onions to pan. Stir until bouillon cube is dissolved. Allow to simmer.
2. Add DEL MONTE Spaghetti and blend well. Top with remaining garlic and green onions. Add parmesan cheese, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

You can't go wrong.

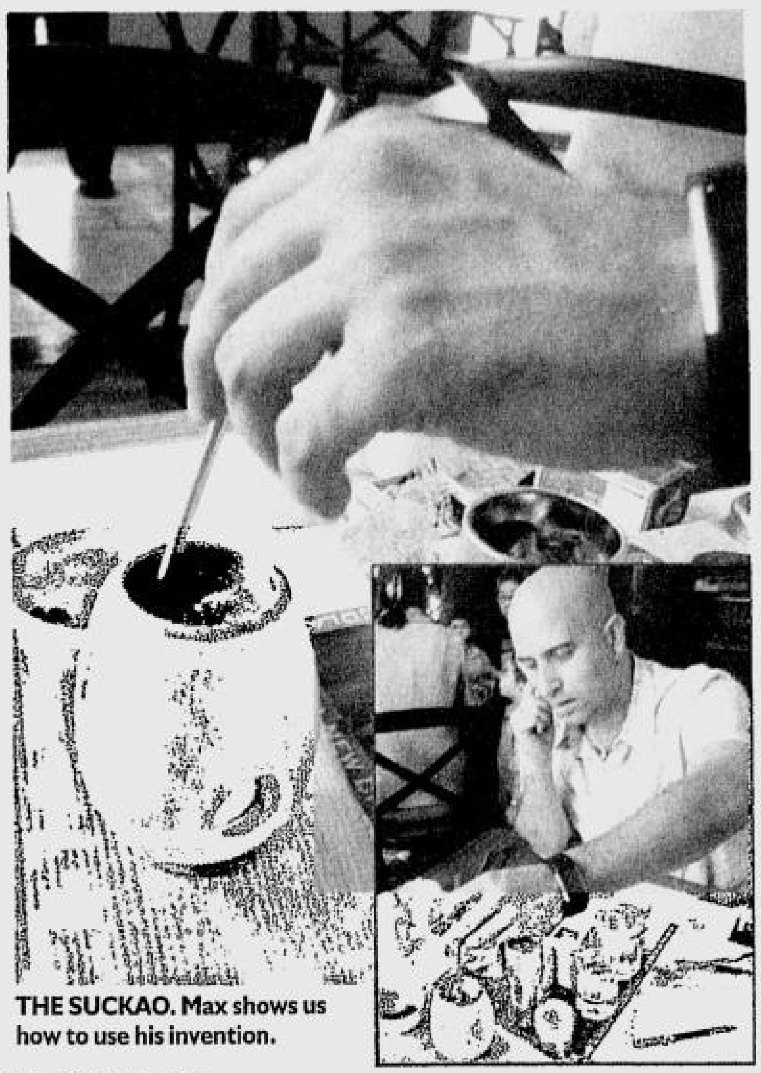


HUG MUG. Max shows us the right way to hold his special chocolate cup.

THIS MUG of hot chocolate is just right for the colder days of December.

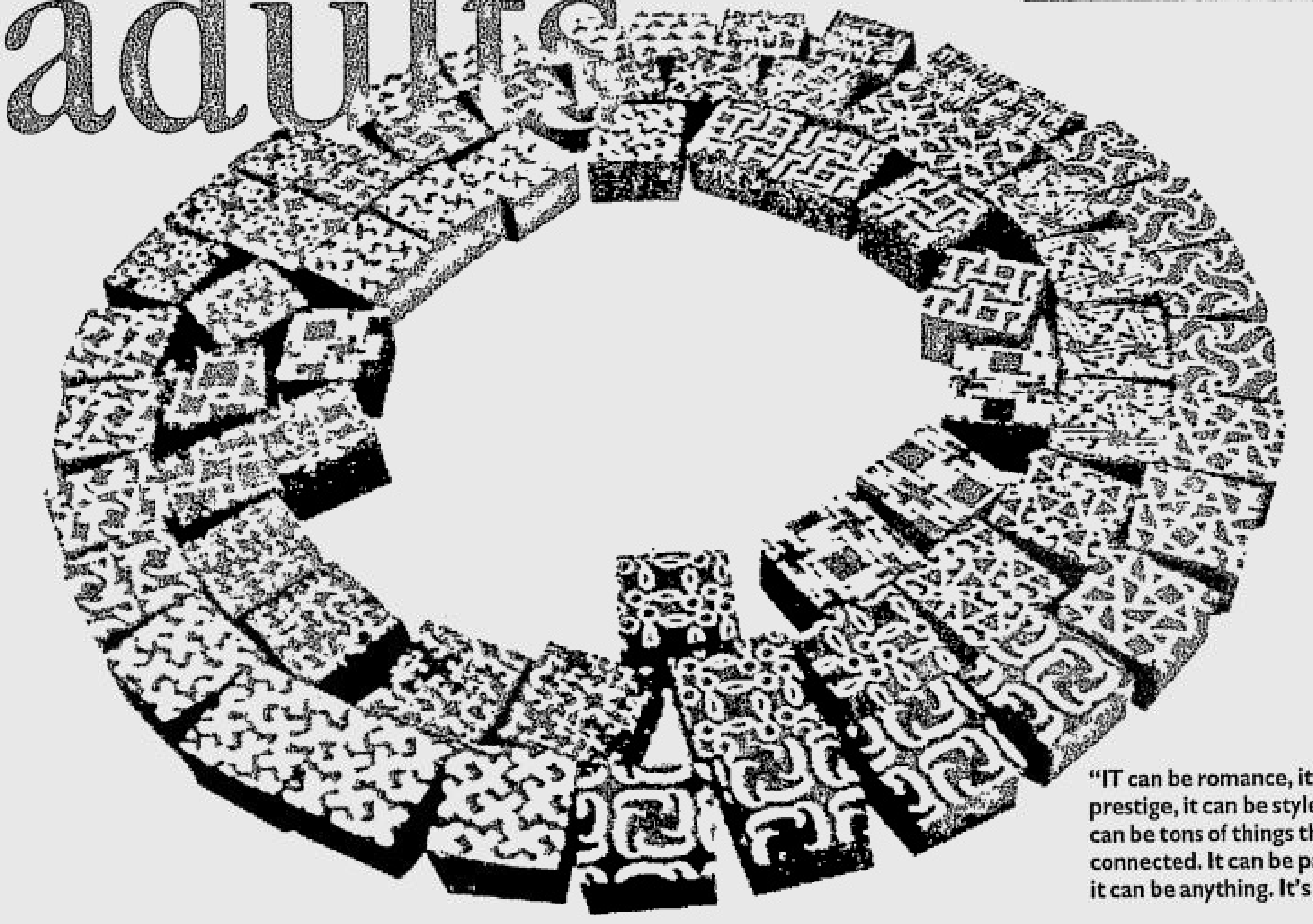
MAX BRENNER
MAGNET
MAX BRENNER

MAGNET. This treat will give chocolate kisses a whole new meaning.



THE SUCKAO. Max shows us how to use his invention.

Willy Wonka for adults



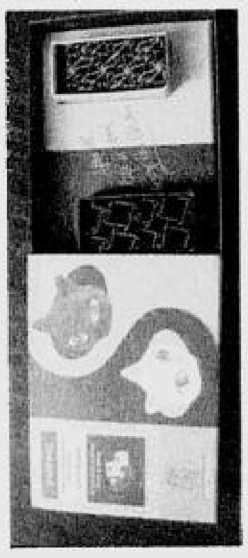
"IT can be romance, it can be prestige, it can be style, it can be tons of things that are connected. It can be passion, it can be anything. It's sexy."

From page L1

THEO
THEO
THEO

JAVANESE coffee beans rolled in white or dark chocolate and mixed with spices

NUTS. Caramelized pecan rolled in praline paste and fine cocoa powder



SHARING. Dark and milk chocolate pralines in a lovely box

to express myself in chocolate is much more than anything else."

Revolution

Seven years and 11 shops later (six in Australia, two in London, one in Israel, one in Singapore and one in Manila), Max Brenner has revolutionized chocolate.

"It's an evolution," he says of his brand's growth. "We want to discover, to reveal everything about chocolate, everything that chocolate can mean to us, what it means to me."

As he demonstrated the different forms of chocolate in his bar, it is clear chocolate has a slew of meanings for Brenner.

"It can be romance," he says, "it can be prestige, it can be stylish, it can be tons of things that are connected. It can be passion, it can be anything, it's sexy."

And while his business may be growing, Brenner says it remains an intimate thing for him.

"It will always be something that belongs to us. Even if I sell it to other people, even if it grows, it will always be something we started. It will always belong to us."

He holds what he considers his charm, his silver necklace with the pendants on his silver necklace—a real cocoa bean dipped in silver and a silver cocoa bean fruit. "My parents and my brother have the same necklaces. We all wear it, we don't take it off."

Different

Brenner says he makes chocolates in a "very different" way.

Very soon—in three days, to be exact—Manila will be given the chance to see just how different this experience is.

"The idea was taking chocolate and giving a place where you can drink any kind of chocolate combinations."

Not only can people enjoy their food and drinks at Max Brenner, they can also buy treats to take home.

"We like to say, 'Experience your shopping and shop your experience,'" Brenner says.

He promises a unique treat for his customers. He explains food is not only about the taste—"It's something that is very holistic."

Suckao

First, there's the Suckao, the clever contraption Brenner created for people who want a delicious dose of chocolate. "It means 'to suck on cacao,'" he explains.

The idea evolved from his dream of a "chocolate injection" for chocolate addicts. He thought of a battery-operated pipe that the chocolate lover could suck on.

The machine didn't fly but the idea did. The little invention allows people to melt chocolate in milk with the use of a candle. They can then enjoy their hot chocolate drink using a metal spoon that doubles as a straw.

THE SHOP'S array of desserts would make anyone's mouth water.

THERE are boxed chocolates for every occasion.

Then there's the Hug Mug, one that you need to cup with both hands to use for drinking. "We said, Okay, let's make a cup for chocolate in the same way that there's a cup for coffee. I said, What is chocolate? It's something you want to hug."

Chocolate kiss

Another surprise is Magnet, a chocolate egg in a box.

Brenner reads out the instructions. "Max's secret chocolate egg for the ceremony of the melting: 1. Light a candle and listen to the most beautiful music. 2. Put the chocolate egg in your mouth. 3. Slide it to your lover's lips. 4. Transfer it slowly from one mouth to the other until the chocolate shell melts and the secret magical filling magnetizes you together. Do not talk—just quietly absorb, feel, love."

Magnet is bound to be a hit with couples who share a passion for chocolate.

Another boxed treat is called "Sharing." Read the packaging: "Love is more than chocolate, let's share."

And when you slide open the box, you will see pralines in two flavors, milk and dark chocolate, and the inscription, "After all, life is about living the clichés."

Brenner asks patrons to explore. "Some people like dark chocolate, some people prefer milk chocolate, some people like it with spices. When you come to places like this, the only thing I can recommend is to explore. Wait for the attraction, wait for the surprise."

Ideal

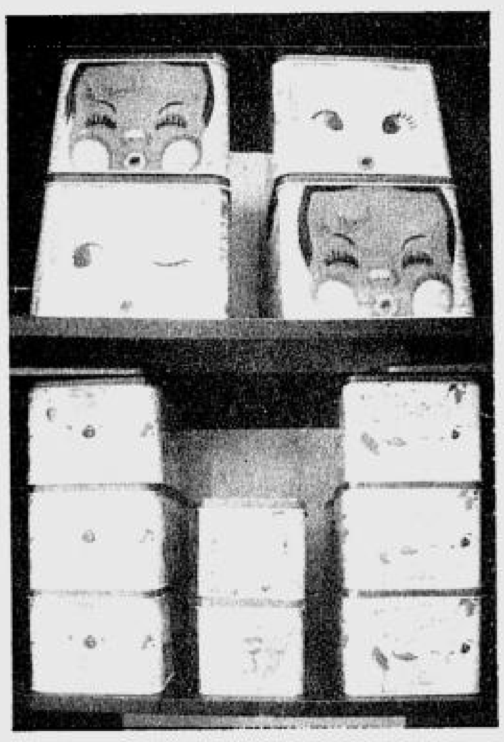
With Christmas just around the corner, Max Brenner came right on time. His chocolates, which would be ideal for gift-giving, come in many different forms, such as powdered chocolate for mixing drinks, pralines, chocolate shavings for melting and for snacks, chocolate spreads in tubes, thin chocolate, wine-and-chocolate sets, boxed chocolate for different occasions and chocolates tin cans that can be used as gift boxes.

Two of our favorites are Theo ("Javanese coffee beans rolled in white or dark chocolate and mixed with spices") and the heavenly Nuts ("caramelized pecan rolled in praline paste and fine cocoa powder").

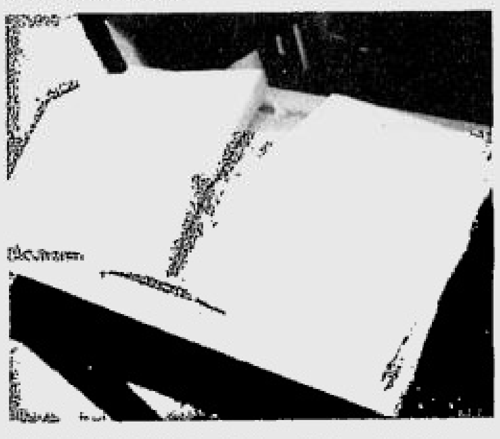
Brenner takes charge of everything—from the recipes of the chocolates to the packaging. "It expresses what I have to say. This is my creation."

No, he hasn't gotten tired of chocolates. "I'm vegetarian. The thing I like to eat most is bread and avocado. And rice, I can eat rice every day. Chocolate also. I can eat and eat and eat. I really have no problem with it."

In fact, he eats chocolate at least once a day. "If I'm stressed and very tired, I tend to eat chocolate more. It makes you happy. But you take it in moderation."



MAX BRENNER'S CHOCOLATE ART. You can fill these colorful tins with pralines for your loved ones.



MILKY TREAT. Yes, this really is a slab of white chocolate.

Brenner sounds incredulous that he has gotten this far. "When I think about how it started from a very small shop, I remember all the problems we had. I start to have a movie in my head, I close my eyes and there's a story. I said to myself, look at this now, you're in the Philippines now. In a way it's a miracle. Then I think of the other stores. It's so touching. I almost have tears in my eyes."

Max Brenner will open in Greenbelt 3 on Dec. 10. Business hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. every day.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

HAVE A CHOCO CHRISTMAS. These goodies would make perfect gifts this season.

Bargain paradise to rise in Global City, Taguig

RUFO Colayco III, president and CEO of BCDA; Miriam Katigbak, Ayala Land Inc. senior VP; and Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga

KAIBIGAN Junior Chorale performed during the opening ceremonies

THE MUCH-AWAITED Ayala Land Inc. commercial development called Market! Market! at Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig, is nearing completion with its recent topping-off celebrations.

Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga, Ayala Land's Miriam Katigbak and BCDA's Rufo Colayco led the ceremonies, shoveling the concrete to be used in constructing the 150,000-sq-m massive shopping and bargain mecca which is set to open end of September 2004.

Shoppers in search of value-for-money products will find the upcoming market a haven with its four levels offering bazaar goods ranging from regional products to fresh fruits, flowers from Dangwa, shoes, bags and accessories, bed and bath essentials.

Market! Market! has something for every shopper, not to mention an entire strip of indoor and outdoor dining venues and entertainment places.

There will also be computer stores, Internet cafés and an activity hall for company promos and product launches.

As a preview, a bazaar called "Pasko! Pasko! sa Weekend Market," located at the grounds of Market! Market!, is now open.

The bazaar, open Friday and Saturday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m., until Dec. 20, offers reasonably priced Christmas décor (fresh poinsettias, native parols made of abaca, tivoli lights), gift wrappers, packaging materials, gifts and novelty items.

DOROTHY Secosana of Secosana and Cose Bags; Tintin Bersola, the program host; and Joey Teng of Everyday Wear Store

Erratum

The caption for this photo, which came out in this section Friday, Nov. 28, inadvertently credited Inno Sotto for the design of Ms Bea Zobel's terno. Our apologies to Pitoy Moreno who designed it.

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PARTY PACK #4 148
1/4 Classic Roast Chicken* (Equivalent to 2 pcs) Pancit Canton-Sotanghon, Solo Mashed Potato, Steamed Rice, Corn Muffin, Choco Mousse, Orange Juice
*Also available in Krispy Chicken *Add P10.00 for softdrink in can
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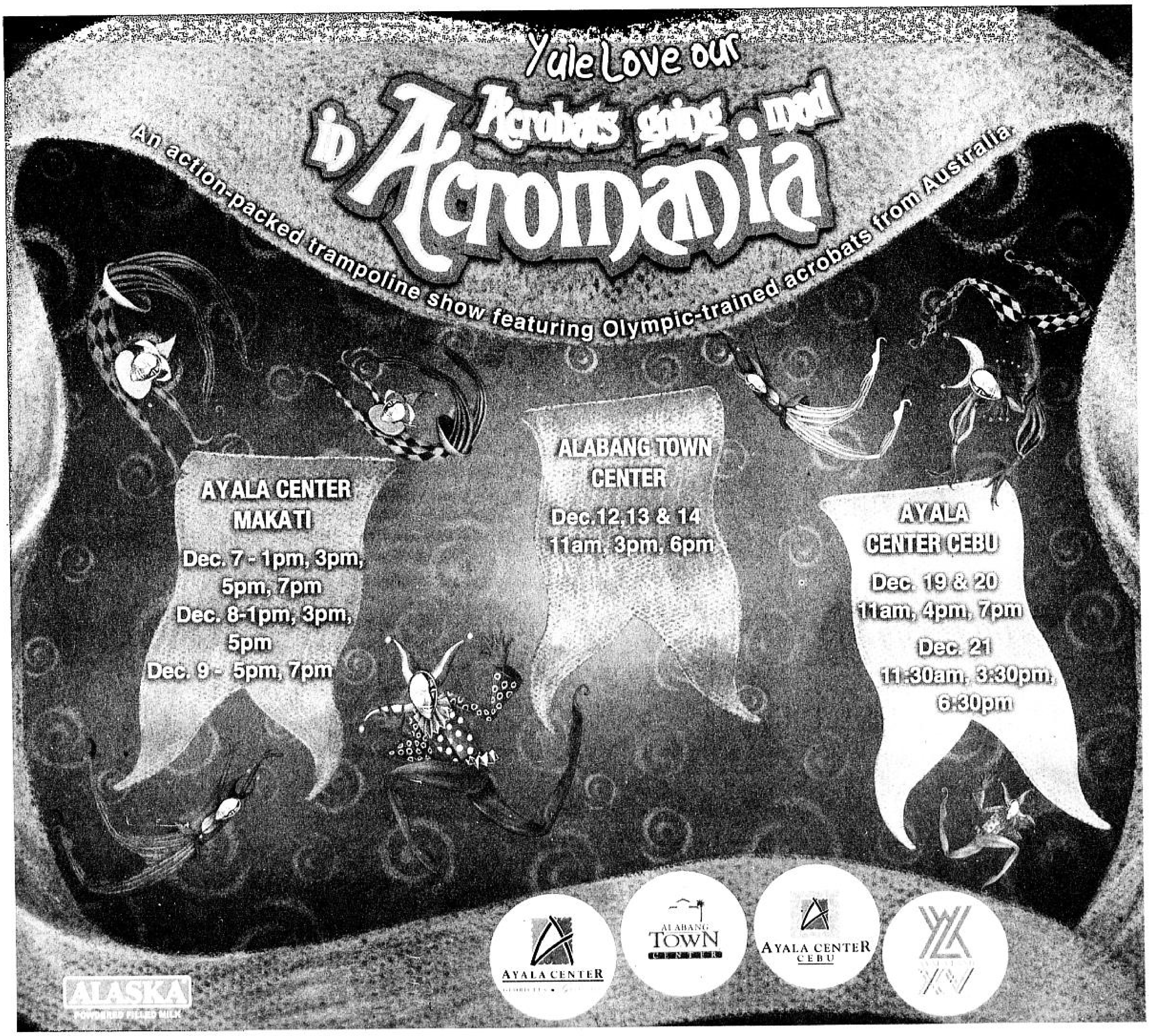
Yule Love our Acrobats going mad in Acromania
An action-packed trampoline show featuring Olympic-trained acrobats from Australia
AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Dec. 7 - 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Dec. 8-1pm, 3pm, 5pm
Dec. 9 - 5pm, 7pm
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dec.12,13 & 14
11am, 3pm, 6pm
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Dec. 19 & 20
11am, 4pm, 7pm
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AMICHI
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OLEG Cassini

Lifestyle store returns to its roots

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

AS the holiday season goes into full gear, Rustan's department store opens its doors at Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila.

"This new location will further solidify our position as a premiere lifestyle store," said Vida Estrella, Rustan's director for store operations, at the opening of its new outlet.

Since Rustan's was first opened in 1951 by founders Bienvenido Sr. and Gliceria Tantoco on San Marcelino St., Manila, it had been synonymous with quality lifestyle and comfortable living. "The new location is just a few minutes away from its birth place. This is why the presence of a store in Robinsons Place has sentimental meaning for Rustan's," Estrella said.

Through the years, Rustan's has opened outlets in Makati, Alabang, Cubao, Harrison Plaza in Manila, Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong and Cebu.

Latest in fashion

A mini fashion show highlighted the opening of the 1,700-sq-m store at Robinsons Padre Faura Wing, which showcases the latest in international fashion, from apparel to accessories.

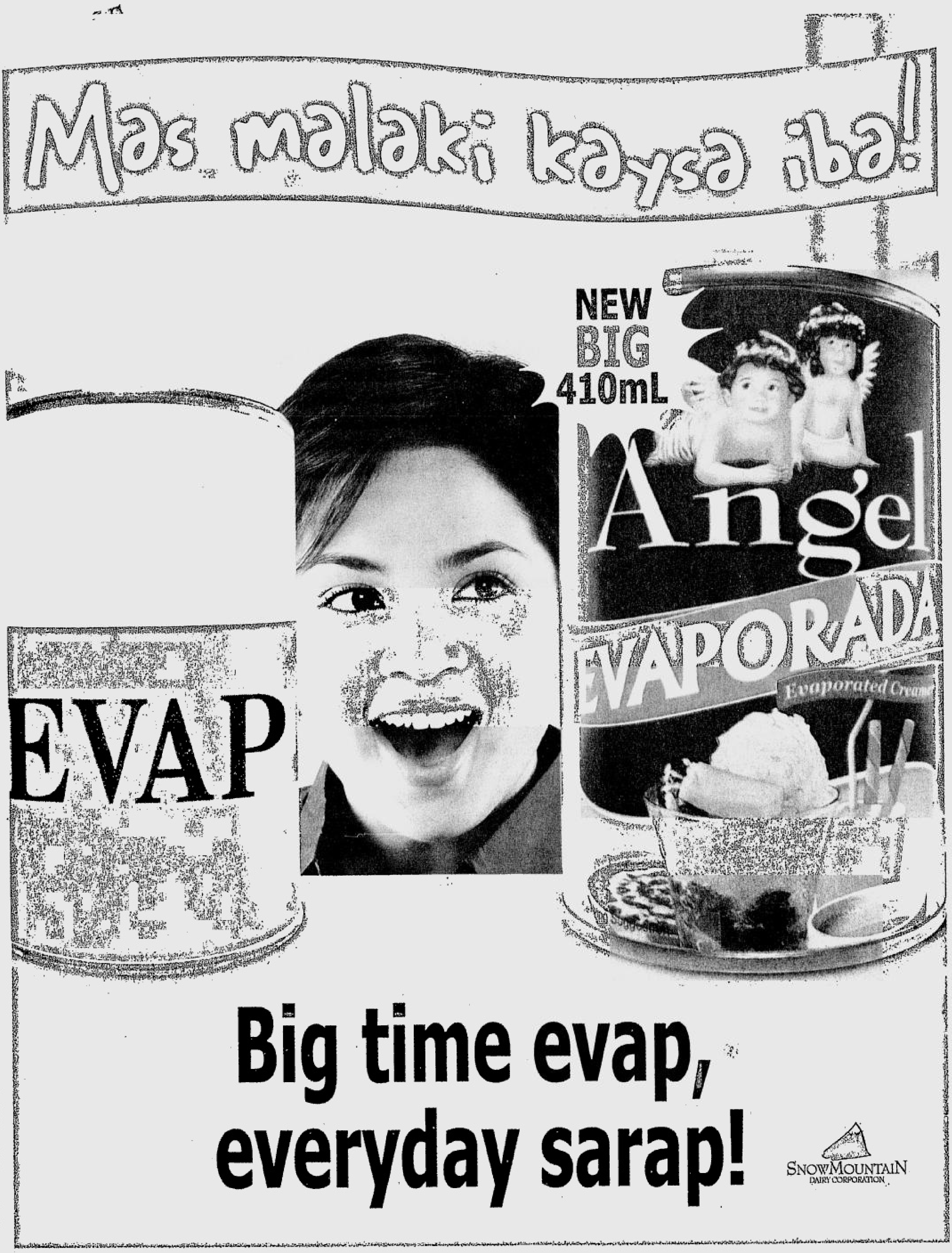
The show featured labels such as Ermenegildo Zegna, Zegna Sport, Dunhill, 4YOU, Mirto, XOXO, Freshjive, Baby Phat, Hollywood Jeans, Vivienne Tam, Amichi, Sinequanone, Magnanni, Bay, Bacco Bucci, Diane von Furstenberg, Jill, Oleg Cassini and Culte Femme. These are all available at Rustan's.

In addition to quality apparel, shoppers will discover other great gift ideas. Rustan's Home carries décor and furnishings while Store-It offers various aids in home organization that fuse style and function.

"We are looking forward to more openings and anticipate good performance from Rustan's department store," said Minda Carpio, vice president-lease, Galleria Corporate Center.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

All I want for Christmas
holiday 2003
ALBERTO
Ayala Malls SM Malls Robinson Malls
Festival Mall Sta. Lucia Mall
The Landmark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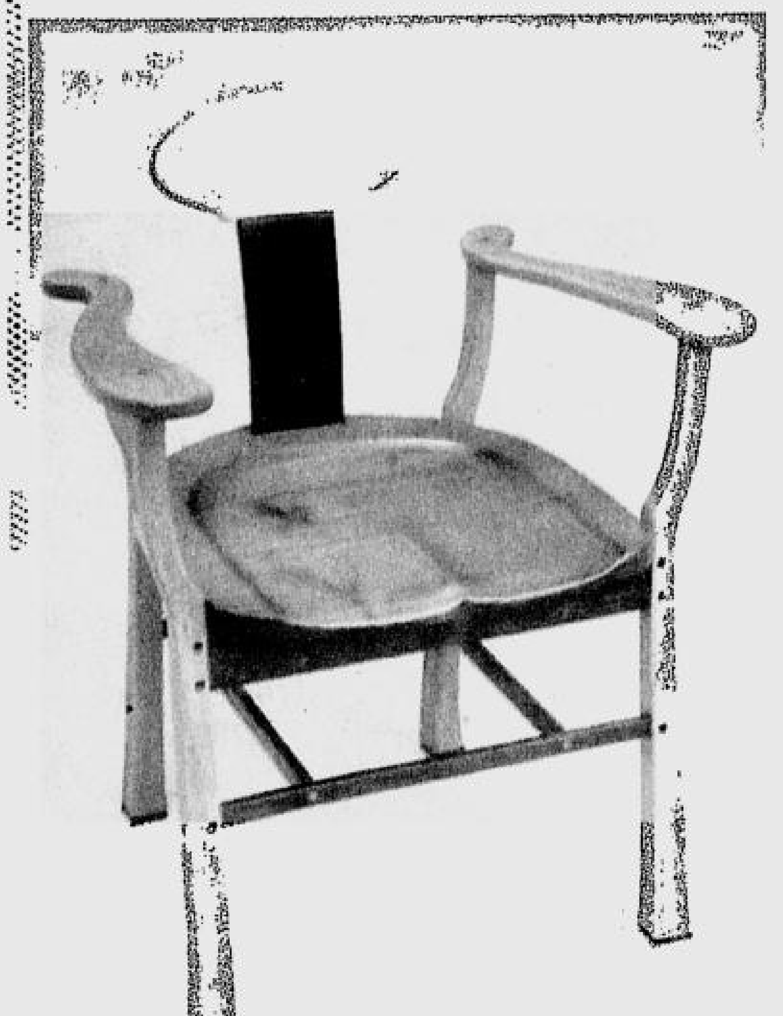
Key pillar of home design comes down



SILYA ni Eena, from the 2003 series

ARTIST and furniture designer Benji Reyes lives in Antipolo in a house that he designed and built himself. A refreshing take on the *bahay kubo*, it serves as both a home for his family and a showroom for his sought-after creations.

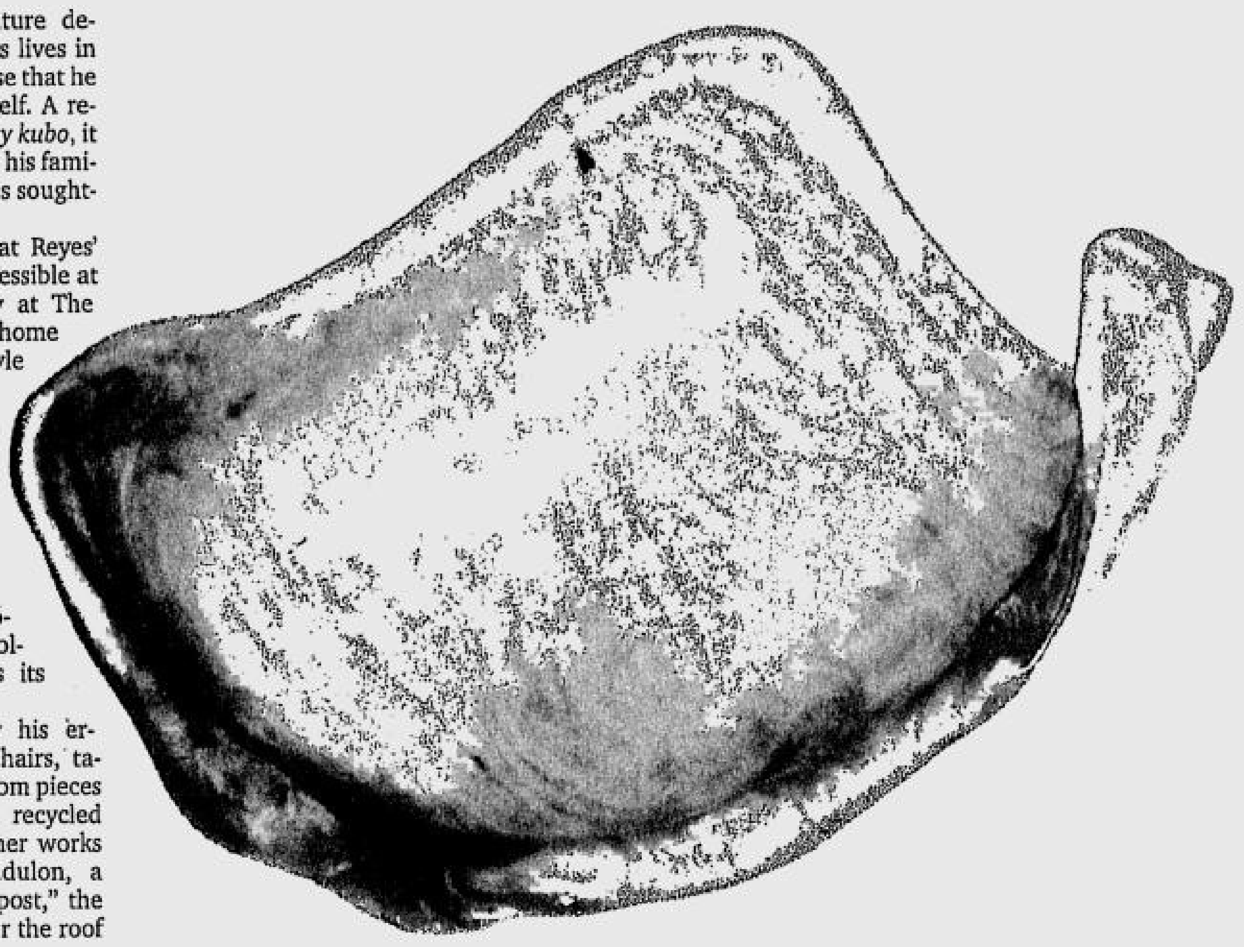
The good news is that Reyes' works are now more accessible at the Pendulon, a gallery at The Home Center, a one-stop home improvement and lifestyle hub at Eastwood City.

At Pendulon's recent opening, Reyes' Kolektor series for 2004 was unveiled. Kaha-bubot is a chest of nine drawers using *langka* wood for the drawer face while Kahapehan is a 3-ft-by-6-ft coffee table with two solid blocks of *molave* as its teas.

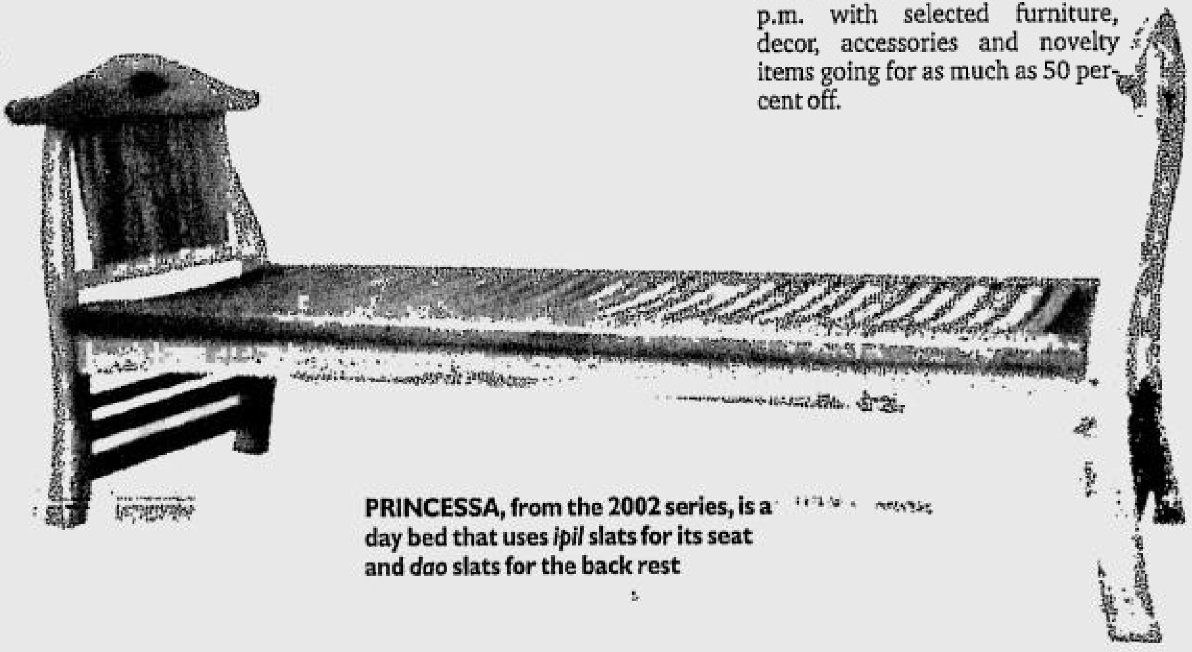
Reyes is famous for his ergonomically designed chairs, tables, cabinets and heirloom pieces made from century-old recycled wood. All these and other works are showcased in Pendulon, a Spanish word for "kingpost," the chief wooden support for the roof of a house.

Also on display are the works of in-house artists such as ceramic sculptor Lanelle, painters Aman and Bart Aguas, lamp maker Wendy Regalado and Ifugao spoon carver Naggao.

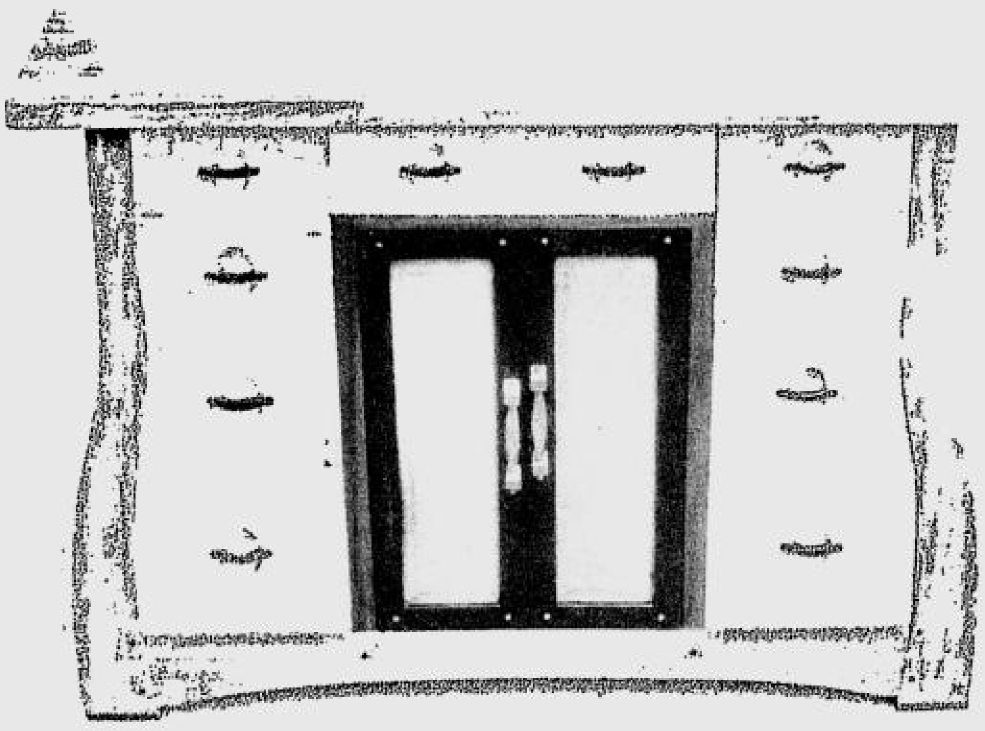
The Home Center, a one-stop home improvement hub at Eastwood City, is holding a Christmas sale until today from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. with selected furniture, decor, accessories and novelty items going for as much as 50 percent off.



BANDEJADO (above) is hand-carved from *narra* root. Kaha-bubot (below), a nine-drawer chest using *langka* wood for the drawer face, from the 2004 Kolektor series



PRINCESSA, from the 2002 series, is a day bed that uses *ipil* slats for its seat and *dao* slats for the back rest



Filipino, Swiss businessmen formalize their ties

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

CONSUL Fortune Ledesma and Palau Ambassador Anita Suta

THE PHILIPPINE-SWISS Business Council (PSBC) was formally launched at the Manila Peninsula last Nov. 11, a reaffirmation of a relationship that goes back 150 years. PSBC chair **Juan B. Santos** explained that the council was created to strengthen trade and investment relations between Filipino and Swiss businessmen.

There are 25 member companies working closely with the Swiss Embassy, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Tourism.

Executive Secretary **Alberto Romulo** delivered the keynote speech. Swiss Ambassador **Lise Favre** , in her response, remarked that the event would be significant to Swiss-Philippine relations as it "will provide the necessary framework for more sustained business relations between the two countries..."

Another launching

Pinikpikan successfully launched its third CD with a concert called "Kaamulan" at the RCBC Plaza. In case you're wondering, the name comes from an annual festival in Bukidnon and it means a coming together or gathering where various tribes perform to the beat of percussive instruments.

Produced by **Boy Yuchengco**, the concert was well-attended and received an enthusiastic response from the audience composed of both locals and foreigners who showed during the performance that the music was immensely danceable as they swayed and rocked to the beat.

Enthusiastic hostess

Hats off to that hardworking chair of Balikatan, **Narda Camacho**, a.k.a. Lito's mom, who organizes *meriendas* for the wives of newly arrived envoys and lady ambassadors and introduces them to Filipino culture and customs. Guests better take up singing and dancing—it appears to be a must.

At the last event, a *bienvenida* for Palau Ambassador **Anita Suta, Jo-Lynne Sutherland**, wife of Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland; Aurora Sagaz,** wife of Spanish Ambassador **Ignacio Sagaz; Loan Dinh,** wife of Vietnamese Ambassador **Dinh Tich; Else Rekawa,** wife of Sri Lankan Ambassador **Ariya Rekawa; Nicole Vornis,** wife of Dutch Ambassador **Robert Vornis**, Consuls **Fortune, Helene** and **Evie** sang for them, as did **Mariana Hubbard** of Mexico, **Clara Colesanti** of Italy. **Valentina Nebogatova** of Russia actually demonstrated the steps of a folk-dance and, of course, our hostess, Narda herself performed as well. Our very own **Lulu Castañeda** sang for both the newcomers and for **Paz Yuchengco**, a delayed birthday present.

DFA Undersecretary Delia Albert

ANDREAS Keller, chair of DKSH

LAWYER Miguel Varela, Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre, Ambassador Jorg Al Reding, Andreas Hauri, and Juan Santos, chair of Nestle Phils., PSBC president

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

NARDA Camacho, Valentina Nebogatova, Carolyn Dimond, Jo-lynne Sutherland and Piiu Antola

LOAN Dinh of Vietnam, Palau Ambassador Anita Suta, Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Santana-Ramirez, head of the diplomatic corps; (behind) Else Rekawa of Sri Lanka, Aurora Sagaz of Spain, Jo-lynne Sutherland of Canada, Nicole Vornis of the Netherlands

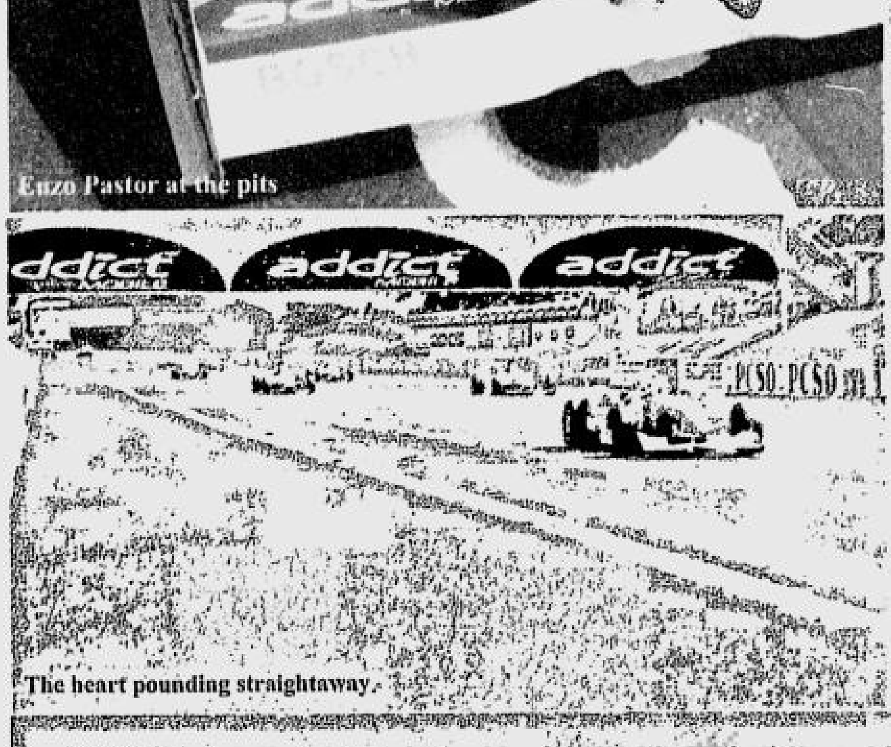
NOEL Pelaez, Paz Yuchengco, Martin Macalintal, a guest, director of Alliance Francaise Philippe Normand, producer Boy Yuchengco

addict
MOBILE

Photos by Arney Nucum

"Your Speed Fix.
The Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Circuit"

Enzo Pastor at the pits



The heart pounding straightaway.

Something primal is unleashed with the smell of burning rubber screeching on hot tarmac. The louder the thundering of engines, the more adrenaline jolts through the body awakening every sense. And you are going to need every sense at its height to catch the 220 kph sleek track terrors shooting before you that is the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Local and foreign professional drivers share the same addiction of speed that can only be satisfied by leaving others behind to feel the torrent of scorched tires and track. Their common sangfroid dispels any fear of going unnaturally fast, and slows the world around them so they can feel every tight turn, as they cut through the wind with 230 horsepower knives of steel and fiberglass.

Filipinos at the Cutting Edge

Addict Mobile has partnered with Asian Formula 3 to bring you the locally developed Formula 3 race cars. The Formula 3 circuit has now spanned all over the ASEAN region and beyond, bringing this Philippine innovation to the world stage.

"Addict Mobile is proud to be supporting a sport that was developed in the Philippines and being brought to places like Australia and Macao," says an addicted fan of Formula 3 from Addict Mobile. "It is a perfect fit for the fast paced and upwardly mobile young people that Addict Mobile serves. The Addict Mobile Formula 3 Series also helps promote Philippine tourism as well as showcases Philippine innovation in motor sports. We at Addict Mobile are proud to be part of this exciting development of Formula 3 as the Filipino motor sport."

The Addict Mobile Ford Lynx Cup

As each need for speed differs, Addict Mobile also brought the Ford Lynx division to the raceway. These young drivers could one day be behind the wheel of the more powerful F3 monsters that was the showcase of the event. Even some young ladies, finishing third and fourth in this division could be piloting the F3 super cars as the sport continues to develop, with Addict Mobile being there at each step.

To usher drivers onto the track and onto the winner's podium, Addict Mobile ladies donned their umbrellas to dispel the baking sun off these gutsy speed junkies. Their lovely curves simultaneously added heat to the track even when the cars stood still.

Despite some minor bump and grinds causing at least some cars to drop from their heats, the day went without injury as the checkered flags were waved. As the crowds cheered with roar of engines still ringing in their ears, and the champagne was sprayed at the winner's podium, the tales of the timekeepers were as follows:

Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3/ Toyota Formula Race 10

International Class

1.	Christian Jones	AUS
2.	Richard Joson	PHI
3.	Jojo Silverio	PHI

Promotional Class

1.	Jojo Silverio	PHI
2.	Roland Hermoso	PHI
3.	Enzo Pastor	PHI

Race 9

International Class

1.	Christian Jones	AUS
2.	Mark Goddard	GBR
3.	Pepon Marave	PHI

Promotional Class

1.	Mandy Borja	PHI
2.	Jojo Silverio	PHI
3.	Roland Jermosa	PHI

Addict Mobile Ford Lynx Cup
Race 10

1.	Edgar Quesada
2.	Dominic Ochoa
3.	Pia Boren

Leave it to Addict Mobile to bring you the best of motor sport and give you that speed fix, from home and abroad. To access F1 Racing from your Addict Mobile Handset...

The coveted winners' circle

Dalia Guerrero makes a run for it

AF3 champ Christian Jones with Addict Mobile's racy lady

The future of racing: Dalia Guerrero and Pia Boren

Ford Lynx Cup winners Edgar Quesada, Dominic Ochoa and Pia Boren

Christian Jones, Richard Joson and Jojo Silverio do the champagne celebration

Your Addict Mobile Menu
Starting Gate to World Class Racing

How do you find out the latest on F3 Racing?
On your Addict Mobile phone all you have to do is:

Go to Addict Menu

Click on Car Crazy

Click on CI Magazine

Click on CI News

Click on Asia

Metro Manila • Manila • Makati • Quezon City • San Juan • Parañaque • Las Piñas • Muntinlupa • Mandaluyong • Pasay • Pasig • Valenzuela • Taguig • Marikina • Caloocan • Malabon • Navotas • **Benguet** • Baguio • **Ilocos Norte** • Laoag • Dingras • Solsona • San Nicolas town proper • Batac town proper • **Ilocos Sur** • Vigan • Santa • Sta Maria town proper • Sto. Domingo town proper • Cabugao town proper • Sinait town proper • Candon • Narvacan town proper • Magsingal town proper • **La Union** • San Fernando • Rosario • Sto. Tomas • Nagtagaan • Agoo • Bauang • **Pangasinan** • San Carlos City • Dagupan City • Urdaneta City • Lingayen • Mangaldan • Calasiao • Alaminos • San Fabian town proper • Umingan town proper • Pozzorubio town proper • Manaoag town proper • Villasis town proper • Sta Barbara town proper • Binalonan town proper • Sison • San Nicolas • Sta. Maria • **Cagayan** • Tuguegarao • Camalaniugan • Sanchez Mira • Enrile • **Isabela** • Ilagan • Santiago • Cordon • Cabagan town proper • Alicia • San Mateo • Roxas • Tumauini • San Manuel • **Nueva Viscaya** • Bayombong • Solano • Bambang • Bagabag • **Bataan** • Balanga City • Mariveles town proper • Dinalupihan town proper • Orani town proper • Hermosa • **Bulacan** • San Jose del Monte City • Malolos City • Meycauayan • Sta. Maria • San Miguel • Baliuag • Hagonoy • Marilao • Bocaue • Calumpit town proper • Plaridel town proper • San Ildefonso town proper • Norzagaray • San Rafael town proper • Pulilan town proper • Guiguinto town proper • Bulacan town proper • Balagtas town proper • Obando town proper • Pandi town proper • Bustos town proper • Angat town proper • Paombong town proper • **Nueva Ecija** • Cabanatuan • San Jose • Talavera • Gapan • Muñoz • Cabiao town proper • Cuyapo town proper • **Pampanga** • Angeles City • San Fernando • Mabalacat • Lubao • Mexico • Arayat • Sta. Rita • Guagua • Apalit town proper • Magalang • **Tarlac** • Tarlac City • Bamban • Concepcion town proper • Capas town proper • Paniqui town proper • Gerona Town Proper • La Paz town proper • **Zambales** • Olongapo City • Subic town proper • Iba City • Sta. Cruz town proper • **Batangas** • Batangas City • Lipa City • Tanauan • Nasugbu • Rosario • Sto. Tomas • Bauan • Balayan • Calaca • Taal • Calatagan • Lemery • **Cavite** • Bacoor • Dasmariñas • Imus • Cavite City • Kawit • Silang • Gen. Mariano Alvarez • Tanza • Gen. Trias • Tagaytay • Carmona • Noveleta • Rosario • Naic • Trece Martirez • Alfonso • Puerto Azul • Indang • Mendez Nuñez • **Laguna** • San Pedro • Biñan • Sta. Rosa • Cabuyao • Calamba • San Pablo • Los Baños • Sta. Cruz • Nagcarlan • Paete • **Occidental Mindoro** • San Jose • **Quezon** • Lucena • Sariaya • Candelaria • Lopez • **Rizal** • Cainta • Taytay • Antipolo • Binangonan • San Mateo • Rodriguez (Montalban) • Angono • Cardona • Morong • Tanay • **Albay** • Legaspi City • Ligao • **Camarines Norte** • Daet • Jose Panganiban • **Camarines Sur** • Naga City • Iriga City • **Catanduanes** • Virac • **Sorsogon** • Sorsogon City • Gubat • **Aklan** • Boracay • **Capiz** • Roxas • **Iloilo** • Iloilo City • **Negros Occidental** • Bacolod • Bago • Kabankalan • **Bohol** • Tagbilaran • **Cebu** • Cebu City • Mandaue • Lapu Lapu • Danao • Talisay • **Leyte** • Tacloban • **Zamboanga del Sur** • Zamboanga • Pagadian • **Misamis Oriental** • Cagayan de Oro • **Davao del Norte** • Tagum • Panabo • **Davao del Sur** • Davao • Digos • **South Cotabato** • General Santos • Koronadal • **ROAD COVERAGE: North Luzon Expressway:** Balintawak to Meycauayan to Marilao • Balagtas to Guiguinto to Pulilan to Calumpit to Apalit to San Simon to Mexico to Mabalacat • **Bulacan Province to Nueva Ecija Province:** Guiguinto to Plaridel to Baliuag to San Ildefonso to San Miguel to Gapan to San Leonardo to Sta. Rosa to Cabanatuan City to Talavera to Muñoz to San Jose • **Tarlac Province:** Mabalacat, Pampanga to Bamban to Capas to Tarlac City to Gerona to Paniqui to Moncada to San Manuel • **Pangasinan Province:** Route 1 - San Manuel, Tarlac to Carmen, Rosales to Villasis to Urdaneta to Binalonan to Pozzorubio to Sison to Rosario, La Union. Route 2 - Urdaneta to Sta. Barbara to Calasiao to Dagupan City to Lingayen • **La Union Province:** Rosario to Sto. Tomas to Agoo to Tubao to Pugo to Marcos Highway • **South Luzon Expressway:** Alabang, Muntinlupa to San Pedro to Biñan to Sta. Rosa to Cabuyao to Calamba • **Laguna Province to Batangas Province:** Calamba, Laguna to Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Tanauan to Malvar to Lipa City to San Jose to Batangas City • **Batangas Province to Laguna Province to Quezon Province:** Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Alaminos, Laguna to San Pablo City to Tiaong, Quezon to Candelaria to Sariaya to Lucena City • **IN-BUILDING COVERAGE:** Robinsons Equitable Tower • Digitel Libis • Robinsons Summit Center • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Place Pasig (Metro East) • Virra Mall Greenhills • Rustans, Ayala Avenue, Makati • DOTC Head Office • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Holiday Inn Galleria Manila • Robinsons Mall Fairview (Novaliches) • New World Renaissance Hotel • Robinsons Place Cebu • Cebu Midtown • The Westin Philippine Plaza • Robinsons Place Imus • Galleria Corporate Center • URC-CFC • Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga • Gokongwei Brothers Foundation • Ayala Center Makati • SM City North EDSA • The Powerplant, Rockwell, Makati • EDSA Shangri-La Hotel • SM Megamall A and B • SM Southmall • SM Centerpoint • Senate of the Philippines • SM Makati • SM Davao • Festival Mall • Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Robinsons Bacolod --and more!

With double the number of cellsites since our launch in April, Sun Cellular now gives you greater coverage.

Now, with an even more aggressive roll-out of an Edge-ready, 3G-ready GPRS network; more and more people can enjoy the benefits of the only state-of-the-art, future-proof telecommunications technology in the country. At Sun Cellular, we know what matters most to you. That's why we work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a continuing commitment to giving you strong, clear signals and delay-free communication -- anytime, every time.

THE SUN SHOPS : Robinsons Galleria 4th Flr • SM North EDSA Ground Flr Carpark Bldg • Robinsons Metro East Big R Lobby • Robinsons Place Manila Fountain Area • SM Southmall Level 2 • Robinsons Starmills Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Cebu 2nd Flr • Robinsons Place Iloilo Ground Flr • SM City Cebu 3rd Flr • SM City Davao 3rd Flr • Big R Cagayan de Oro 2nd Flr • Robinsons Place Bacolod 2nd Flr • SM City Fairview 2nd Flr • SM Centerpoint 3rd Flr • SM Megamall 4th Flr • Robinsons Imus Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa Ground Flr • Festival Mall 4th Flr • Park Square One Ayala Center Ground Flr • Shangri-La Mall Ground Flr • SM Bicutan 2nd Flr

Enjoy great deals when you visit these SUN BLAST VENUES : Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Festival Mall • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Ermita • Robinsons Metro East • Robinsons Dasmariñas • Robinsons Iloilo • Porta Vaga, Baguio • JY Square Discovery Mall, Cebu • Gaisano Mall of Davao

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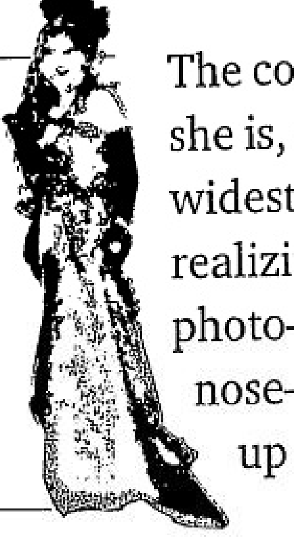
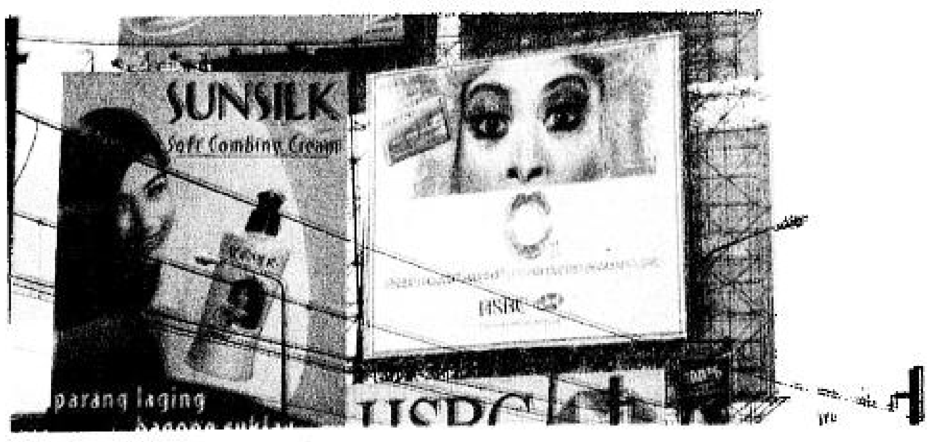
How 'Godzilla' became a billboard model

TESSA!



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The compliant model that she is, she flashed her widest smile without realizing that the photo—and her nose—would be blown up a megazillion times



THE BIG-mouthed billboard

I USED to think that billboards were just another form of visual overload, cluttering the open space around the major highways of the city. With their high-wattage mercury lights, they provide, at the very least, enough illumination for five blocks on both sides of the road. And as in the Monopoly board game, Edsa and South Super are the Park Place and Boardwalk locations of the billboard industry. Since billboards are visible daily to millions of motorists and commuters, are they really an effective advertising medium?

Well, when the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) billboard featuring my Godzilla-size eyes and horrifying huge nose was posted along Edsa, I got so many calls and texts. The initial billboard was a teaser, and so many wanted the advance info, demanding to know "what was on my lips." Even my exciting show-biz buddy, **Kris Aquino**, who has no shortage of billboards herself, called to congratulate me for being the newest poster girl. If she wasn't such a good friend, that phone call would have been the equivalent of **Muhammad Ali** calling **Manny Pacquiao** to congratulate him on joining the ranks of boxing champs.

New to the world of advertising, I shockingly realized the vast coverage and impact of a billboard posting. But, since my face was camouflaged in pink hair, multicolored eye shadow and false eyelashes on both top and bottom, an effect cleverly made over by makeup maverick **Eric Maningat**, the viewer has to take a double look to even realize that it is me. Although, who else would actually look like that but me! **Ai-Ai de las Alas**, perhaps?

At the photo session for the ad, top commercial photographer **Toto Poblador** and fun stylist and rock climber **Marie Calica** asked me to flash a smile, with eyes as wide as possible.

In doing so, I didn't realize my nostrils would in turn flare out, too. I should have practiced in front of the mirror before the shoot.

So when the photo was magnified, my mainstay design guru, **Rajo Laurel**, teased me saying a whole car could enter each nostril. Sad but true, that is the downside of billboard advertising.

Professional pin-up girl and fellow HSBC Red MasterCard model **Amanda Griffin**, whose billboard is along South Super, had a more stunning shot. It's a good thing we were chosen because of our individuality. Hers is the strikingly beautiful look while mine is the stylishly creative angle.

For the launch of the for-ladies-only Red Card at Temple Bar, the event included a fashion show of SSI shops' latest apparel, a powerful performance by singer **Bituin Escalante** and an all-night party. My husband, **Dennis**, arrived at the launch, looked around at the posters and asked **Warner Manning**, HSBC president, if installment had one or two "l's." One if you're British, my dear boy.

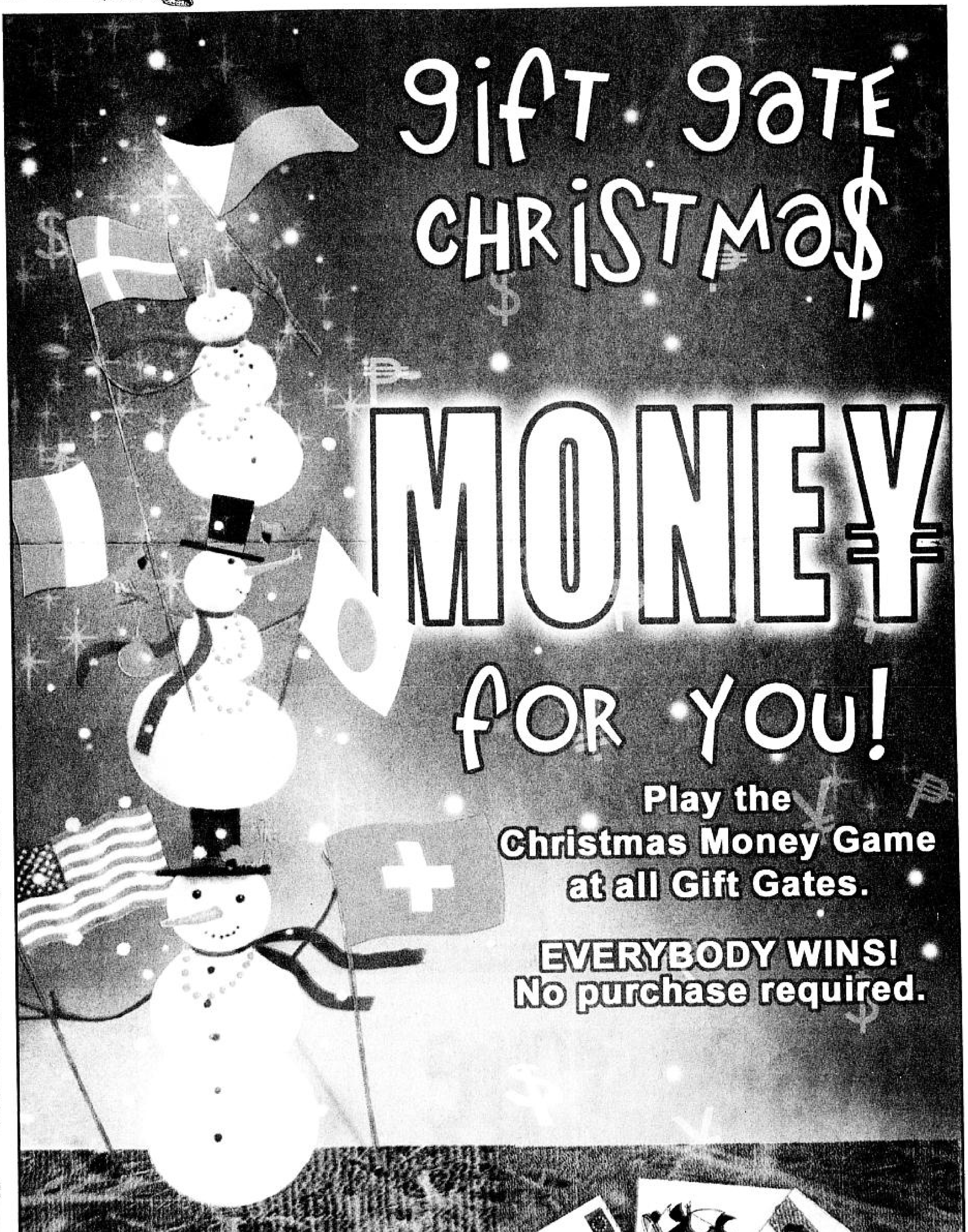
The most exciting and useful benefit of this

HOW/ N2

SHOW-BIZ celebrities having fun. Precy Ejercito, Rudy Fernandez, and my favorite actress, Lorna Tolentino

PRETTY maidens in a row. Joji Malinaw, Maureen Santiago and Senaflor Sanchez

DENNIS Valdes flanked by HSBC CEO Warner Manning and wife Julie



Play the Christmas Money Game at all Gift Gates.

EVERYBODY WINS! No purchase required.

Get Gift Gate Christmas Money!

Think Japanese Yen... for Sanrio.
Think U.S. Dollars... for Russ.
Think Danish Kroners... for Lego.
Think Euro Dollars... for Benetton.
Think Swiss Francs... for Swatch, and Flik Flak.

Gift Gate Christmas Money is valid from December 1-31, 2003.

The new Gift Gate is open at the New Wing of Alabang Town Center beside Tower Records.

¥50
RUSS 12345
ONE DOLLAR
CHRISTMAS 2003
REPUBLIK A NG ANG SAYA-SAYA
YOU WIN A PRIZE!
gift gate

HSBC'S Claire Yap and Aloy Alday

AT THE MCDONALD'S Christmas ball. Lovely Kristine Yang and Dr. Elenita Binay

GORGEOUS sisters Cindy Yang and Shirley Bitong

TEAK king and queen. Jackie and Beaver Lopez

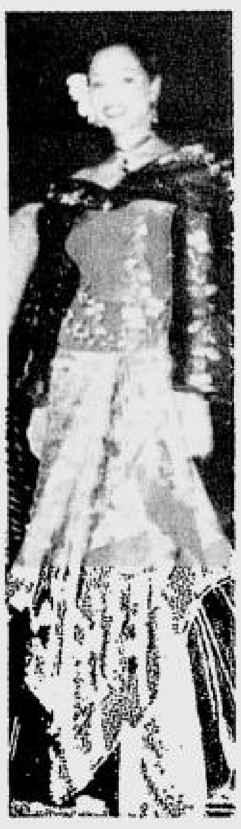
SOON-TO-WED JM Lagdameo and Iya Guingona at cozy Teak

KIDLAT funny couple. David Esteban and Dona Tumacder

How 'Godzilla' became a billboard model

THANK you for the flowers! With James Benoit onstage

DESIGNER Rajo Laurel


BEST gown at the Bulaqueña Ball. Maureen Santiago in a Rajo Laurel gown

From page N1

Red Card is its 0-percent instalment plan offered in the very shops I frequent. I mean, who can resist a Prada and/or Gucci bag and buying them at 0-percent interest in up to 24 months? It simply takes the guilt out of shopping. And with discounts in different spas including Urban Spa, I enlisted all my girlfriends to join.

Bulacan bash

Another recent event was the Bulaqueña Ball at the Westin Hotel. **Berna Lomotan** had even asked me to dance in its Rigodon de Honor but I begged off because Dennis claimed he had danced his quota of Rigodons for this decade already, having submitted to the task at the recent Red Cross Ball.

The Bulaqueña version was more complex and more flawless, too. I noticed the same choreographer, **Bujin Danao**, proudly watching over one corner counting the steps of her students. I was so close to just joining in the dance since it was exactly the same music. Unfortunately, my partner must have foreseen this possibility and had wisely excused himself from even attending the event.

Since attending the B Ball was a last-minute plan with Philippine Tatler editor in chief, **Anton San Diego** (happy birthday, dear friend!), I had nothing from turn-of-the-century Manila to wear. So, I actually did a fashion taboo and wore the same gown for two straight nights in a row. My red Duchesse-satin gown, inspired from an 18th-century Bordello Madame, made me look more like a guest from the Titanic. To further create that impact, Rajo accented it with horsehair sculptures and matching beadwork and trim. I just changed the color of my wig and accessories so the overall look would be slightly different to those social hawks that might notice.

Teak power

Together with my hunk for the night, Anton, I trotted this same gown to the grand launch party of Teak, the hippest lounge bar breathing new energy in the Lopez strip in the Power Plant Mall. Its cozy interiors by cosmopolitan designer and longtime friend, **Jonathan Matti**, and delicious Asian-style dishes were showcased that evening.

Even if half the crowd were chilling al fresco, thanks to the Makati City's smoking ban, bar owners **Beaver** and **Mike Lopez** were delighted with the turnout of friends, which should make Teak the latest happening place.

Earlier that day, in the same mall, a new sports gear shop also opened. Aura Athletica had a cocktail party with aura readers for those wanting to know their past life. I think I must have been a flamboyant, gay fashion designer and before that an Egyptian goddess. And still before that a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The shop carries really absorbent wear like Karma and Lululemon Activewear. They are meticulously designed with details like flat seams to avoid irritation, and built-in bras for minimization. So even with my yoga clothes, I can seemingly have all the right curves. But with all the festivities and food to match, I might just have to resort to the druggie shortcut to fat-free living—Xenical—and get back in shape after the new year instead.

In the Red

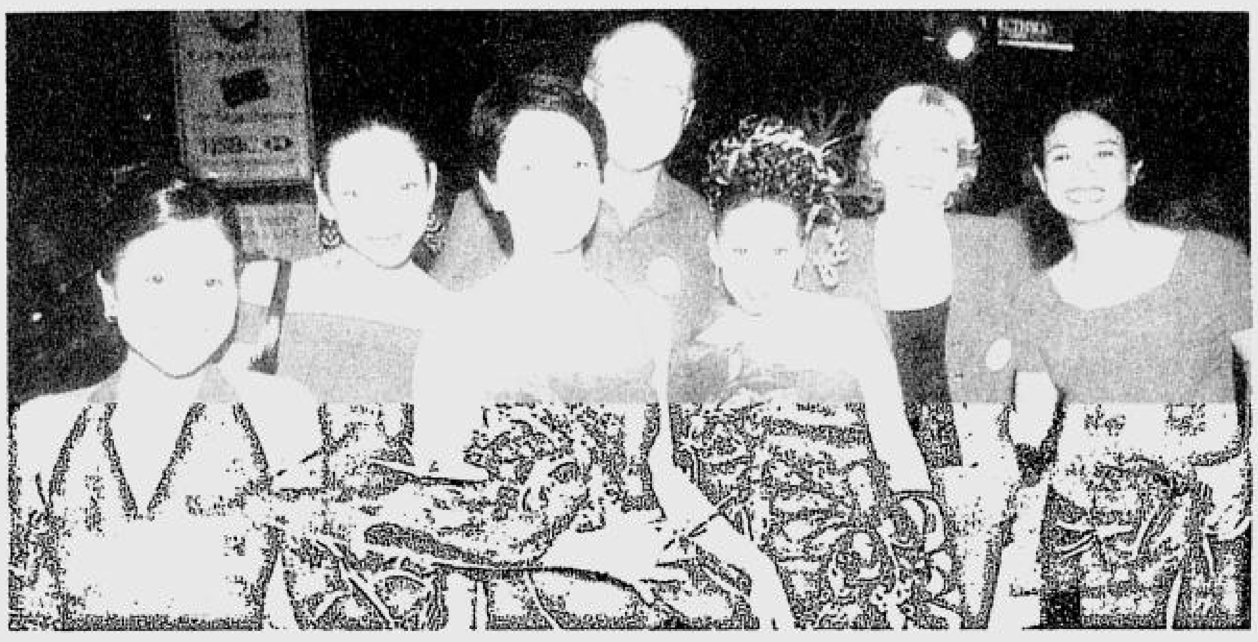
The following Tuesday, I wore the same bottom—a red, long skirt—to the opening of Red, the latest restaurant of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. It replaced the old Cheval Blanc Restaurant and is totally more exciting with a new menu offering excellent steaks, except for me since I'm vegetarian. Well, never mind. My main concern for the event was to come to the launch in the correct color motif without blending too much with the Rajo-designed outfits of the waiters, or worse, the dancers.

The whole Christmas spirit is in full swing. I have been attending dinner concerts left and right. For Christmas concerts, **Lani Misalucha** is my favorite, hands down. I was able to catch her twice in one week. First was at the McDonald's Charity Christmas Dinner and then at the HSBC Christmas Concert at the Meralco Theater. I wonder where I was when God started handing out singing voices. I must have been in the toilet, practicing.

We are so close to Christmas and I have not started even my generic Christmas list. I will just pray for world peace and for the peso to be like it was before. But, charity is always the best to share with the less fortunate. So for my share, I am helping with a Christmas special for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163. I hope you can all try to catch it on Dec. 12 at the Meralco Theater. It is an ABS-CBN production, so for sure it will be a beautiful show.

Good luck to all in your efforts to find the perfect gifts this season. With the peso weakening, feel free to recycle fruitcakes or what-have-you's. Just remember my motto for this year: It's not what you give that counts, it's how nicely it's wrapped!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph


MELISSA Sison, Amanda Griffin, Cookie Duran, HSBC CEO Warner Manning, Sea Princess, Julie Manning and Gina Alfonso were all red-y with smiles at the HSBC Red MasterCard launch in Temple Bar

MCDONALD'S family with a diva. George Yang, my favorite chanteuse Lani Misalucha, and handsome couple Cindy and Kenneth Yang

LOVELY at the ball. [illegible] Villarama, [illegible] Helen Ong and [illegible]

ARCHITECT Dan Lichauco with Melissa Sison

ROCKWELL faces. Andy and Kitty Jacinto with visiting Spaniard Javier Salazar

HIPPIE couple Juan Alcazaren and Metro's Freida Dario at Temple Bar

FAB designer Rhett Eala and Aura Athletica owners Carmen Delgado and John Syjuco

BROTHERS in love and business. Michael, Beaver and Mark Lopez of Teak Bar

RED card guests Rosan Cruz, Ricky San Beneventura and Bettina Go

POWER PEOPLE with generous hearts. Howard Belton, Warner and Julie Manning, and Cristina Belton

THE GREAT Lani Misalucha at the HSBC Christmas concert, with the Mandaluyong Children's Choir

ELEGANT friends DJ Lopez and Nedy Tantoco

LOOKING great in vintage frocks. Susan Reyes and Lucille Carlos-Locsin in her own creation

Time meets Italian fashion

10 Corso Como Skin. Black dial with 10 Corso Como logo, sand-colored Arabic numerals and formal white hour hands and fabric strap

Corso Como X-Large: Broad. Black leather strap and black dial with a hand-drawn, six-pointed silvery star

SWATCH has an enviable reputation for challenging artists to work on the world's most visible micro-canvas. Nam June Paik, Renzo Piano, Akira Kurosawa, Almodóvar—to name just a few—all accepted the invitation to design a unique creative work for Swatch.

Today, the credits continue to roll, as leading designers and cross-over innovators from around the world keep Swatch on the edge with every creative encounter.

Now time encounters cutting edge fashion as Swatch and 10 Corso Como come out with two limited edition watches.

The 10 Corso Como Skin, designed for the woman with an unerring eye for character and culture, elegance and style, was designed by American artist Kris Ruhs.

The 10 Corso Como X-Large, also designed Ruhs, has a star the color of silvery sand burning in a blackened sky.

Both Corso Como limited edition watches are now available at all Swatch Stores and Kiosks.

Gift Gate exclusively distributes Swatch.

New phone unit offers delightful features

YOU can now get the new Nokia 1100 on Globe on G-Plans or as a prepaid phone kit.

Find out why more people are on G-Plans than any other mobile service when you get this phone free with the G-Text 500 Plan or any other G-Plan. The G-Plan opti-SIM gives your phone space for 750 phonebook entries, 100 messages and a G-Plan exclusive, myOrganizer.

The other half of this two-rific deal is you may also get the Nokia 1100 for only P6,390 on Globe Prepaid Phone kit. This comes with the X-treme Memory SIM which gives you P100 worth of initial load value for free.

The light and sturdy Nokia 1100 has a large display, soft and sleek silicone keymat with large keys, easy-to-use interface and selectable font size. Its handy messaging features like SMS distribution list, SMS chat, Filipino Predictive Text Input and SMS Speed Dialing also cut your messaging routine in half.

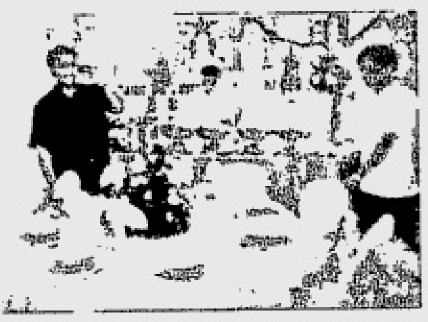
The Nokia 1100 is complemented with a durable cover, anti-slip sides and long talk time and standby time powered by Nokia Battery BL-5C. With this new battery, your talk time extends up to more than 4 hours while your standby time is stretched up to more than 400 hours. It also has extra phone memory for your 50 favorite text messages, conference call capability, built-in games, alarm, timer and full-size animated screensaver.

A young entrepreneur and his best business partners

CATERER Albert Cortenins receives a call on his cell phone at 10 p.m. from a client, requesting him to serve breakfast for 50 in Makati the next day.

"No worries," Albert tells his client, a long-time customer of his family's Pots and Grills Catering Services.

Even with his kitchen staff already gone for the day, Albert is able to alert them immediately to come to work at 3 a.m. the following day. Thanks to his Touch Mobile cell phone, which has become a reliable partner in his thriving food business, Albert is able to meet his client's needs with simple text messages to his staff, who also have their own Touch Mobile cell phones.



In the years that Albert has been running Pots and Grills with his mother Mely and sister Cristy, Touch Mobile has been one of his most reliable business partners.

Since 1999, Albert, 32, a computer science graduate from AMA Computer College in Quezon City, has relied on cell phone technology to orchestrate his food business. At that time, Albert was the concessionaire of the Food and Beverage Department of Splendido Suites owned by JAKA Corporation.

"That was the time that cell phones really helped us handle the demands of our business," Albert relates. "Even if I am in Laguna, I am able to inform my staff, who is in Makati, to purchase more supplies to feed an additional 1,000 people during an evening function."

The only problem was his cell phone bill.

"I was using another GSM service provider then, since Touch Mobile was not yet in the market," Albert recalls. "I had to pay an average of P5,000 a month just for my cell phone bill alone!"

But since he switched to Touch Mobile, Albert now spends only P1,500 a month on his cell phone bill. He is able to keep his spending down by using Touch Mobile's 'Family Circle' service, which provide subscribers with a discount of 5.50 per minute on all calls to five frequently called numbers.

"*Maraming discounts kasi ang Touch Mobile,*" he says. "Lots of free text, discounted voice call rates. *Talagang nakatipid ako.*"

In 2000, Albert was commissioned by Ajinomoto for its cooking demo program. That same year, he also started accepting catering assignments for sports and marketing events, which were held mostly out of town. He was also the concessionaire of Avon Manufacturing in Calamba, Laguna. He was awarded a one-year contract to cater food to Avon employees, including its foreign clients and expatriate bosses. This also meant catering for special functions sometimes with only four hours notice.

By the first quarter of 2000, Albert had also become the concessionaire of Forest Hills in Subic, Zambales, catering for its seminars, conventions and conferences.

"In Subic, the cell phone even became more important to me," he says. "For example, there will be four functions to be held on the same day on different locations in Subic. We would be told there would only be a hundred guests. But come lunch time, more people would arrive. Sometimes, the number of guests would double. What I would do is simply make a cell phone call to the commissary to send us more supplies."

Albert has registered under Touch Mobile's "Family AutoLoad" service to make reloading among family members and his staff more convenient and hassle-free. As principle loader, he passes on prepaid credits over the air to his family and staff.

When it came to preparing for his own wedding last year in Subic, Albert relied mainly on his Touch Mobile cell phone to communicate with his then girlfriend Babes, who was based in Manila. He had given Babes a cell phone, which kept the couple in touch in the flurry of their wedding preparations.

After his wedding, Albert decided to settle again in Manila. He converted his family's place in Quezon City into a three-storey building where he now lives with his family and holds office for his catering business.

Today, Albert is on top of a bustling food business that needs his constant attention practically 24 hours a day. A hands-on boss, Albert does his own marketing while his mother supervises the kitchen staff and his sister manages the other aspects of operations. Albert also deals personally with his clients and prepares the menus himself to ensure that his customers' needs are met within their budgets. And, along with two other chefs, Albert cooks the food that would be served for the catered functions.

Occasionally, Albert likes to experiment with new dishes. He gets some ideas from Touch Mobile's Home Info Text Service which lets him easily access different recipes from Sylvia Reynoso Gala through the info feature recipes' from Sylvia's kitchen.

Despite the demands of the business, Albert has managed to keep Pots and Grills Catering Services within the family. And with Touch Mobile, Albert is always in touch with his family and his staff. It also keeps Albert in constant touch with his clients, who often seek him out for their special celebrations and functions.

"Catering service is not just a one-time deal, that's why you need to be in constant touch with your clients" says Albert. "Filipinos celebrate a lot of occasions--weddings, birthdays, baptism, graduation. *Minsan pa nga,* I would be called to cater for wakes. *Ngayon, may catering na rin* even during burials. So I am always ready for anything, and my Touch Mobile always keeps me connected."

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mobile

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- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Comprehensive knowledge of quality assurance practices and processes.
- Ability to influence key stakeholders in relation to Training and Quality initiatives.

ACCOUNT MANAGER
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self driven, strong attention to detail
- Minimum 1 year Client Relationship experience
- Sense of Urgency is a must

TRAINERS
- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

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- Exceptional communication skills
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- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, with strong attention to details
- Minimum 5 year Client Relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader
- At least 5 years broad-based business experience or Senior Management Level experience in the service sector and in particular, technology, telecommunications environment
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Sound financial planning skills a MUST

TEAM LEADERS
- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams
- Experience in either sales, collections or inbound is a must

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
Essential Requirements include:
- Computer literacy (knowledge of PC architecture, DOS, Win 3.1, Windows Operating Systems and internet applications)
- Reasoning ability; ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.
- Strong command of the English language
- Customer Service Focused
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Self motivated and results driven

WORKFORCE PLANNING MANAGER
- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment. TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

WORKFORCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS
- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

TRAINING MANAGER
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Exceptional communication skills
- Courseware development and training needs analysis knowledge
- Strong understanding of training assessment and Return on Investment
- Knowledge of accent reduction training required.

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Estensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
- Minimum 1 year call center management experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional leadership skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skills
- Training and/or Six Sigma experience highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
Essential requirements for this role include:
- College degree in related field, Master's degree preferred.
- Demonstrated effective leadership and direct management capabilities across multiple teams in various locations
- Minimum of 5 – 7 years of proven experience and knowledge in Philippine labor laws.
- Demonstrated well-rounded experience in all facets of Human Resource Management

PAYROLL SPECIALIST
- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions Focused.
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

PAYROLL SUPERVISOR
Essential Requirements include:
- Minimum four years experience in payroll preparation, two years of which in a supervisory role
- Analytical, solutions focused
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

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Reporting to the Senior Account Manager, this person will be the key client contact. He/She will be responsible for developing and maintaining partnership with the client to amplify business and increase customer satisfaction. The Account Manager shall also prepare, implement, maintain and review existing client projects.

- Candidate must have one year experience in the Call Center Industry
- Previous product and client responsibility
- Proficient with Microsoft applications
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- Graduates of Computer Science and Computer Engineering preferred but not a requirement
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- Knowledge in business and accounting software, a definite plus.
- Highly intelligent and adaptable to situations.
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Trainer

- Experience in writing documents for a variety of audiences
- Very good presentation skills
- Must know how to develop training materials
- Must be assertive, a team player and keen on details
- Willing to work on a shifting schedule

Account Supervisor

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Strong command in oral and written English communication skills
- Excellent business writing skills
- Analytical, detail-oriented and with strong customer service background

Team Leader

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Proficient with Microsoft applications
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills

Training and Quality Manager

- Has excellent written and verbal English communication skills
- Has at least one year Training and Management experience
- Experienced in negotiating and diplomacy
- Proficient in spreadsheet applications and word processing softwares

Quality Assurance Supervisor

- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills.
- Minimum of 2 years of leadership experience through project Lead facilitation.
- Proven analytical and creative thinking abilities

Quality Assurance Staff

- Very good written and verbal English communication skills.
- Must possess organizational, planning and delegating skills
- Must be a college degree holder of any related course.

Training Supervisor

- College graduate of any course
- With supervisory experience in people development, training operations and quality management
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- ■ develops and designs reports in consultation with users under ongoing Comprehensive Loan Administration and Servicing System (CLASS) project and related financial systems within Controller's Department (CTL) using Oracle Discoverer and related tools and programs;
- ■ develops and designs specialized computerized financial accounting reports as required;
- ■ designs and develops business models for reporting purposes based on business requirements and performs necessary programming in PL/SQL to meet users' needs;
- ■ assists in the design and testing of custom interfaces and future enhancements of existing and new application systems;
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- ■ undertakes research and performs trend analysis on ADB's lending products;
- ■ conducts formal and hands-on training to users on the use of Oracle Discoverer and related application systems;
- ■ develops training materials and guidelines on related systems and procedures; and
- ■ provides technical guidance to junior staff and performs other related assignments as required.

Selection Criteria

- ■ suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- ■ a bachelor's degree in Science, Information Technology or related field, with background in accounting or banking areas; preferably with Oracle Certified Professional designation;
- ■ eight years work experience, three years of which should be in development, training and programming of technical and/or accounting reports using Oracle Discoverer and/or Crystal Reports;
- ■ excellent knowledge and in-depth understanding of Oracle database and platform;
- ■ expertise knowledge and experience in Oracle Discoverer and administration and/or Crystal Report with teaching experience in any of these programs;
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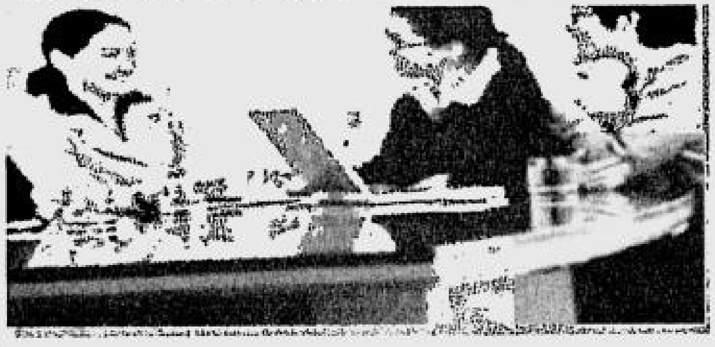
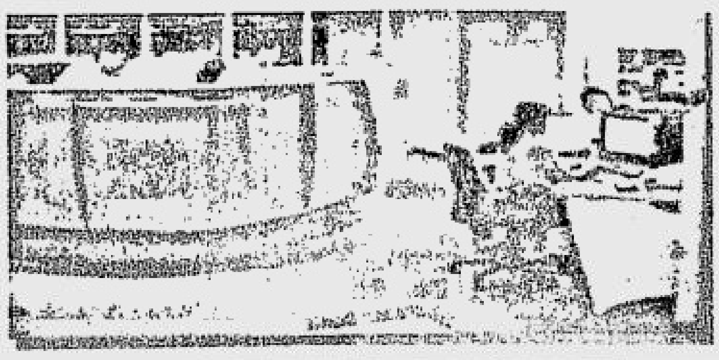
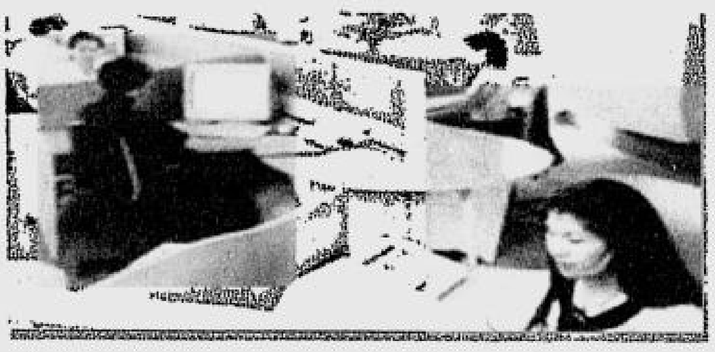






APPLY NOW FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Director for Workforce Management
- Operations Managers - Sales
- Operations Managers - Customer Service
- Operations Managers - Technical Support
- Assistant Operations Managers / Shift Leaders
- Team Captains
- 300 Inbound Sales Associates
- 350 Customer Interaction Associates

- Organizational Development Manager
- Training Officers
- QA Analysts
- HR Generalist
- HR Associates, Assistants, Officers
- IT Manager

rapid career growth
bond-free
comprehensive training
attractive incentives
fun events
high class facilities

•GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS
- Excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written.
- Preferably with a very stong and assertive personality.
- High level of customer service and sales orientation.
- Proficient in various computer applications and Internet savvy.
- Willing to work graveyard shifts.
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

> *"At about this time, most companies are concentrated on closing their books while we are extremely busy signing up new clients and expanding existing programs. Clearly no other call center can rival our growth".*
>
> *Therese de los Santos*
> *HR - Corporate Recruitment Manager*

JOIN THE AMBERGRIS TEAM

ambergris solutions is a leading Philippine-based provider of offshore quality customer care services for American companies in the utilities, IT and telecommunications industries through local infrastructure. Our facilities, training and operations program, and our highly trained professionals, make us the most admired, fastest growing Philippine-based company in the call center industry. We provide a full range of inbound customer care solutions to Fortune 500 companies from our state-of-the art, 1500-seat contact center in Manila's Ortigas central business District.

Log on our website at www.ambergrissolutions.com

IFS

IFS Philippines Inc.

❖ **Company Description**

IFS develops and supplies component-based business applications for medium and large enterprises and organizations. IFS Applications, which can be implemented step by step, is based on web and portal technology. The solution offers 60+ enterprise application components used in manufacturing, supply chain management, customer relationship management, service provision, financials, product development, maintenance and human resource administration. IFS offers customers an easier, more open alternative.

A leading global business applications supplier, IFS has 3,000 employees, with sales in 45 countries, and more than 350,000 users worldwide. The company is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange (XSSE: IFS). In Asia Pacific, IFS has offices in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It is represented via a distributor in Taiwan.

Our rapid expansion in the region has created the need for an:

❖ APPLICATION CONSULTANT FOR MANUFACTURING

The position reports to the Country Manager, Philippines.

Key Responsibilities :

You will provide implementation and post-sales consulting services, perform business analysis, planning and conduct training tailored to the clients' needs. You will also need to assist in the pre-sales process and presentations to prospects and perform project managment.

Key Requirements :

- A degree in Industrial Engineering discipline
- 3 – 4 years' experience in implementing or using ERP solutions within large multi-national manufacturing organizations
- Experience in providing consulting services in the functional area of manufacturing and a good understanding of this business process
- Open to travel.
- Versatile team player with excellent interpersonal skills to facilitate smooth interaction at all levels.
- Proficiency in English is essential.
- Experience in Japanese Oriented Companies is an advantage.

Please apply within 7 days, by submitting a detailed curriculum vitae in English, your present and expected salary, and a contact telephone number to :

E-mail: HR@IFS.com.sg
Mail Human Resources Manager
IFS Philippines Inc.
Unit 909, Phil. AXA Life Centre
Sen Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City,
Philippines

Go to www.ifsworld.com for detailed information about IFS.

Southville International School and Colleges

Internationally accredited by the
Western Association of Sciences and Colleges (WASC), USA

Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution committed to excellence!

For schoolyear 2004-2005, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
- College graduate with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality and must not be more than 30 years

GS AND HS TEACHERS
- Preferably BEE or BSE graduate
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must Business Math (Accounting/Economics), Social Studies World History, MANDARIN/CHINESE, Physical Education, English ESL, Reading Math, Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Filipino, Computer Education, Art, Values Education, Math (Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Calculus)
- Preferably with PRC(LET) License

MIS CONSULTANT
- Has MS and PhD in any field of IT/Computer

URGENT

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Graduate of BS Accountancy

PROMOTIONS/MARKETING SPECIALIST
- Graduate of any communications/marketing course
- Has experience in brand management
- With pleasing personality and has excellent oral and written communication skills

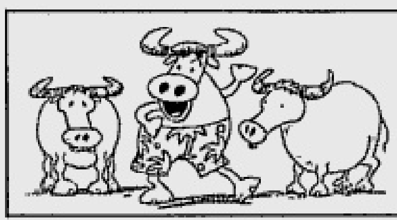
CAFETERIA COORDINATOR
- Has experience in managing cafeteria or restaurant operations

SCHOOL REGISTRAR

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to the
Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 820-5702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB Market

A leading B 2 B (Business to Business) Company involved in local and international Operations urgently needs the following top-notch professionals to join the management team

▸ VP FOR COMPTROLLERSHIP

a. Must be a practicing CPA for at least 7 years
b. Must be adept in general accounting, statutory and management financial reporting, budgeting and forecasting, variance analysis, tax administration, payroll and internal financial controls
c. Proficient in accounting, finance software and other management information system applications
d. Excellent officer and staff management skills
e. Must be able to interface with various levels in management

▸ INTERNAL COUNSEL / LITIGATION LAWYER

a. Preferably graduate of UP or Ateneo de Manila
b. At least four (4) years experience in a litigation law firm
c. Able to handle corporate work (contracts, special audit, etc.) and litigation
d. Must be willing to travel (regional assignment)
e. Must have an active network among government agencies (POEA, DOLE, BIR and the LRA)

▸ SALES & MARKETING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT)

a. At least five (5) years experience in marketing Filipino services to Middle Eastern countries and the Asia Pacific Region
b. He must have an extensive international business network
c. Fluent in English
d. Fully conversant with MS Office
e. Can create convincing sales materials
f. Must be skilled in sales presentation
g. Available to travel overseas

▸ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (LOCAL RECRUITMENT)

a. At least three (3) years experience in promoting contracted services to labor and manpower-intensive industries
b. Able to organize, lead and motivate a sales team to achieve higher results
c. Exceptional presentation and excellent communication skills
d. Highly-skilled and fluent negotiator
e. Consummate networker

- All applications will be dealt with strictest confidentiality
- Only Qualified applicants will be responded to

Please send comprehensive resumé to:

The HR Manager
Box MK-139
c/o Classified Ads Department
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Ground Floor Atrium of Makati Bldg.
Makati Avenue, Makati City

A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies is looking for

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- College graduate/Medical or Business related course
- Preferably with medical background
- With at least 2 years experience in selling pref. Medical supplies
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills ,
- Friendly and able to related well with customers
- Responsible, Honest and Trustworthy
- Computer literate

Please send resumé to:
The HR Officer
Box No. Q.C. 2003-105 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg., 891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St.,
Cubao, Quezon City
medsales@philonline.com

WANTED

JAVA PROGRAMMERS

1-2 YEARS EXPERIENCE
J2ee EXPERIENCE PREFERRED

Apply at JACM SOFTWARE SERVICES
c/o Roadway Inn, Km. 4, J.P. Laurel Avenue
Bajada, Davao City; Tel. #2219002/2219011

or

Send your resumé to e-mail address:
RAOUL REYES <raoulr@mac.com>

Aboitiz Transport Group

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT GROUP has been bridging the islands of the Philippine archipelago since the 1920's. Today, it is the single largest and most efficient Integrated Transportation Company in the country. We are the holding company of the transport investments of the Aboitiz Group. The single largest integrated transportation company in the Philippines. An ACD and AEV Investment.

ATG has helped create jobs through its operations and business expansion. In addition to being the leader in the transportation industry, WG&A one of its companies is **one of the country's Best Employer's Hewitt Associates**, a management consulting firm, launched the first Asia-wide Best Employers Study last June 2001. This study was participated by **forty-two (42) companies and 11,616 employees**. Among these companies, **WG&A ranked 6th in the top 10 list.**

ATG provides you with opportunities for learning and growth. Find the career opportunity that matches your skills, interests and goals.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (Cagayan de Oro)

Able to negotiate the appropriate rates
Able to solicit referrals that can lead into possible sales generating account
Knowledgeable in import/export procedures
Maintain existing customers and address specific concerns
Expand support from existing customer by getting new business/trade
Develop and generate new business from new accounts
Do market studies and identify/know activities of competitor
Develop good contacts among exporters and importers

Requirements:
Graduate of a 4-yr course preferably in Business Administration or Management
Minimum of 2 years sales and marketing experience preferably from Freight forwarding or Logistics Company
Excellent interpersonal relations, good follow-thru, persistent patient, above average negotiation skills, has strong drive to meet aggressive sales target, with self-confidence and pleasing personality, good coordination skills, excellent customer service skills, above average oral and written communication skills.

AREA HR SPECIALIST (Davao)

With Competencies on the following areas:
Workforce analysis and planning
Organizational design and review
Strategic partnering
Process Management
Change Management
Performance Management
Competency Development
Training
Sourcing, Selection, Hiring, Integration
Benefits administration, Compensation and Payroll Administration

Requirements:
Familiar with (shared service) business structure for Human Resources
Preferably with Masters Degree
Minimum of 4 years HR experience (at least 3 years as generalist and 1 year as specialist)
Preferably has handled accounts/clients (consulting set-up)

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (General Santos)

Will be greatly involve in managing and planning resources
Task will also involve the following:
Operations Planning and Management
Operations and Feedback Analysis
Financial Analysis
Management of external relations

Requirements:
Graduate of any four-year course
4-5 years experience in Terminal Operations (both Pier & Container Yard)
Good communication skills & public relations
Willing to work long & odd hours, and can work under pressure
Preferably male and not more than 30 years old
For Cagayan de Oro Branch & General Santos Branch

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (Cebu)

Will be involve in the following:
Telephone Communication and Handling
Customer Interaction and Relationship
Product Knowledge and System Application Usage
Selling
Account Management

Requirements:
Graduate of any four-year course
Female, preferably single

DAT TELLER (Butuan & Iligan Branch)

Preferably with working knowledge on freight business process/policies and application
Knowledge on cargo documentation process/policies and application
Knowledge on Tariff policies and application
Has Systems usage knowledge and application

Requirements:
College graduate
Former DAT-TELLER Outgoing from previous branch or agency
Male or Female, not more than 35 years old

Qualified applicants are required to submit an application letter, resumé, transcript of records, recent 2x2 ID photo to:

Human Resource for Results Department
WG&A Bldg., Sergio Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000

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essensuals

HAIRDRESSING
DIFFUSION TONI&GUY

Be among the next batch of trainees to study in London and get the chance to meet the Mascolos . . .

Essensuals Toni&Guy Manila opens its door to:

Hair Stylists
Hair Technician
Salon Assistants
Nail Technicians
Front Desk Personnel
PR & Marketing Executive

Qualifications:

- ○ **Between 19 - 35 years old**
- ○ **Has good command of the English language**
- ○ **At least college level from a reputable school**
- ○ **Must be hardworking, trainable, willing to work on weekends and holidays**

Send/submit your resume with photo to G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Walk-in applicants will be accommodated every Mondays thru Wednesdays only.

SHINKAWA LTD.

Philippine Representative Office

Manufacturer of Semiconductor Equipment

Is in urgent need of:

TWO (2) SERVICE ENGINEERS

- ○ male, not more than 25 years old
- ○ graduate of Electrical/Electronics Engineering course
- ○ preferably with experience in diebond/wirebond semiconductor machines
- ○ good oral and written communication skills
- ○ with good moral character
- ○ preferably residing in Baguio City
- ○ to be assigned in Baguio City

Please send resumé at:
Unit 304 The Sycamore Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or
email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé is on Wednesday, December 10, 2003)

NIIT® is a global leader in software development and IT education and training. It has training alliances with **Microsoft, Oracle and Computer Associates**. It is **Microsoft's Best Training Partner**. Its global clients include IBM, World Bank, British Airways and Sun Microsystems. **NIIT is looking for competent individuals for the following positions:**

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES

- 1-2 years experience in corporate sales
- Sales and marketing experience on IT products and services, an advantage
- Graduate of reputable colleges and universities
- Excellent communication skills

FACULTY / IT TRAINOR

- A degree holder in Computer Science or its related fields
- Skilled in any of the following languages: C#, C++, Java, Visual C++, VB.NET, J2EE; and operating systems: Unix, Linux, Windows NT/ 2000
- Excellent communication skills

Please send your resume with 2x2 picture to: The HR Department, 2/F NIIT Center, Greenrich Mansion, Lourdes St., Cor Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or email it to: vadrosa@niit.com.ph

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N.I. TEIJIN SHOJI CO., LTD.

A Japanese trading firm engaged in Cleanroom System and Consumables for Semicon-Industry is in search for a

BUSINESS SERVICE ASSISTANT

to be responsible for Administrative & Business Monitor

Qualifications:
- ◆ Female, 22 to 28 years old and graduate of any four-year course
- ◆ Possesses excellent oral & written communication and interpersonal skills
- ◆ Knowledgeable in MS Office applications
- ◆ Highly-motivated, result-oriented and understands the demands of the job

Interested applicants may apply in person with comprehensive resumé & recent photo to: 18F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City

"Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview"

Punla sa Tao Foundation

SENIOR RURAL FINANCE SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
1. Must have at least 3 years management experience in a senior capacity. Experience with a foreign-assisted project, an advantage.
2. Preferably, with advance degree in development management, economics, banking or finance.
3. With experience on capacity building for credit and savings cooperatives.
4. Proven ability to manage a multi-stake environment that includes community leaders, government officials, donors, specialists and consultants.
5. Excellent English communication skills; knowledge of Ilokano, an additional advantage.
6. Willing to relocate and travel in the upland communities of Nueva Viscaya and Benguet.

The successful candidate will be posted in Nueva Viscaya until June 2004. Please send your application letter and comprehensive resumé with reference and picture to punla@info.com.ph or to the address below before December 12, 2003.

President and Executive Director
Punla sa Tao Foundation
Room 306 CRM Bldg.3 #106 Kamias Road, Quezon City
Tel no. (02) 928-1109 / (02) 928-1257

A MAJOR FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED

SALES DIRECTORS and GROUP MARKETING HEADS

For Special Sales Project

Must have held division, regional, senior regional or equivalent sales/marketing assignments in the real estate, pre-need, life insurance and/or similar sales-oriented industries for a minimum two years with a successful track record

Must be able to quickly organize a sales team of at least 50 people

Generous compensation and incentive package offered

Please mail your resumé to
P.O. Box 3766 Makati Central Post Office
1200 Makati City
from December 1-6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Prestigious Group of Eateries located in Makati and other areas within the National Capital Region have opening for the following personnel:

COOKS

- ➢ male, at least 30 years old, preferably married
- ➢ w/ 5 years minimum experience in Regional dishes & chinese food
- ➢ must be creative; and be able to formulate menus for delectable dishes
- ➢ hardworking, self-motivation and willing to work long hours

RESTAURANT SUPERVISORS

- ➢ Female, single 22-28 years old, with pleasing personality
- ➢ at least 2 to 4 years experience in supervisory position
- ➢ dependable, can work under pressure and willing to work extra hours
- ➢ fluent in English written and oral
- ➢ graduate of BS Hotel and Restaurant Management or BS Nutrition and Dietetics.

Good Basic Salary and attractive fringe benefits depending on qualification and experience await qualified applicants.

Interested parties may apply in person at 7th floor ODC International Plaza Condominium, 219 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

RMSI
RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.

Is in immediate need of a top caliber

Personnel and Administrative Manager

- Female, between 30-45 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least five (5) years experience in all facets of Human Resource Management in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated

DUE TO THE URGENCY OF THE NEED, QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resource Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor, Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

JOB VACANCY

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

- ☐ Must be a fine arts graduate
- ☐ Female at least 2 years experience in textile & garments industry
- ☐ Advance knowledge in adobe photoshop & corel draw
- ☐ Good in spot print and all over print concept
- ☐ Good fashion sense

BOOKKEEPER

- ☐ Female, 24 to 30 years old
- ☐ Preferably a resident of Quezon City
- ☐ Accounting graduate
- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ Two years experience in bookkeeping
- ☐ Knowledge in BIR/SSS/HDMF
- ☐ Prepare schedule of expenses
- ☐ Prepare check voucher and checks

SBMF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, INC.
Call: 9200940; 9249847
(9:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Look for: Carina for schedule of interview
Please bring resumé or past works

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(For a prominent family)

FAMILY CHEF

Minimum 3 years experience in first class restaurant or five star hotel. Ability to cook Italian, French & vegetarian dishes preferred. Career advancement through supplementary cooking classes by foreign chefs for those who prove competent. Good working habits. Disciplined, clean & neat. Young sous-chefs will be ideal. Good salary. Stay-in.

ASSISTANT COOKS

3 years working experience and must have basic knowledge in cooking. Must be organized, flexible, trainable and with good working habit. Stay-in. Good salary.

HOUSEKEEPER

Must be high school graduate or college level. Must have sufficient knowledge in housekeeping, table setting & kitchen management. Must be responsible, honest, with good working habits & above all willing to learn a high standard of household management & maintenance. Preference will be given to those who have worked in five star hotels & fine dining restaurants. Stay-in. Good salary.

DRIVER

Able to drive luxury cars, diplomat level. Neat and clean, well mannered. High school graduate, responsible, honest. Can trouble shoot mechanical problems. With good knowledge of Metro Manila roads. Stay-in. We offer good salary and incentives.

If interested,
please text **0917-8500881**
or
mail resumé with photo to
P.O. Box 1731 Manila

LEVI'S® STORE – GLORIETTA & adidas® BRAND STORE – ROCKWELL

ARE LOOKING FOR THE FF:

1. BRAND SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- ➢ 18 to 22 years old
- ➢ at least high school graduate
- ➢ can speak good English
- ➢ pleasing personality
- ➢ trendy and upbeat
- ➢ good communicator

2. SECURITY PERSONNEL
- ➢ 21 to 28 years old
- ➢ male
- ➢ very athletic and alert
- ➢ good physique
- ➢ team player

Please bring your resumes with picture and contact numbers to Stall 101, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati (Levi's® Store) on December 8 to 12, 2003 between 10AM to 5PM.

We are the exclusive affiliate of a worldwide training and consulting organization providing results-oriented training and consulting services to Fortune 500 companies and top Philippine organizations. We have an immediate opening for:

Account Executives

Who
- *Can engage in new business development by conducting market and account research, generating leads, and participating in account management to leverage opportunities*
- *Can initiate client contact through mailings, prospect calls, and customer visits*
- *Can participate in individual development by attending workshops and coaching sessions with salespeople, and integrating new skills and knowledge into daily activities*
- *Can be a differentiating feature of doing business with existing clients and prospects.*

The candidates we seek should have:
- *Excellent verbal and communication skills*
- *At least 3 years experience in sales and/or business development*
- *A bachelor's degree in business, education, psychology, marketing or related areas*
- *Strong customer focus on client requirements and needs.*

To the successful applicants, we offer:
- *A competitive compensation package*
- *Plus a sales incentive and bonus plan*
- *Opportunity to develop managerial, leadership, and professional selling skills.*

Please e-mail your resumé and recent 2x2 photo to meginc@globenet.com.ph or fax to (02) 638 6990.

NEW CEBU JIPPAN HOTEL
Is in need of
GENERAL MANAGER
RECEPTIONIST
CASHIER
SECRETARY
COOK
COOK HELPER
WAITRESS
BARTENDER
HOUSE KEEPER
LAUNDRY
ENGLISH TEACHERS

Preferably w/ experience. Applicants must be GOD fearing. Requirements: Application letter, resumé, 2x2 pic and other credentials. Pls. send your reply at: New Cebu Jippan Hotel, Looc Maribago Lapulapu City, tel. (032) 340-5995. APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED DEC. 8-13, 2003.

A growing distribution company is in need of:

BOOKING SALESMEN

- Male, single, 21-30 years old
- Hardworking, with pleasing personality

Contact: 434-1039 (9-12 a.m.)
0917-6091450

A company specializing in credit risk valuation is in search for

CREDIT RISK ANALYSTS

- 3 years experience in banking, finance, and/or analytical work
- CFA and other certification are a major plus
- Educational background in business, e.g. economics, management, finance, accounting, marketing, etc.
- Excellent analytical skills
- Proficient in English and Filipino
- Notable skills in the use of computers, applications, and other analytical tools

Please send cover letter, resume w/ picture, and transcript of records to:
Unit 700 Ortigas Bldg, Cor. Ortigas-Meralco Ave, Pasig City 1600
Fax: 6375001 Email: bf_recruit@yahoo.com

AXA
PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST TO BE PART OF THE FIRST AND THE BEST...

Philippine AXA Life, a joint venture between Metrobank, one of the largest banks in the Philippines, and the AXA Group, one of the world's largest life insurers, is looking for enthusiastic, results-oriented and highly competitive candidates to join its elite BankAssure work force who has preference working or residents of METRO MANILA, BAGUIO, LA UNION, DAGUPAN, BATANGAS, LAGUNA, OLONGAPO, DAVAO, GENERAL SANTOS, COTABATO, MARBEL, KIDAPAWAN, TACURONG & MIDSAYAP.

BANKASSURE AREA MANAGERS (BAM)

The position entails motivating, inspiring and leading a team of professional advisers to meet sales targets by objectively evaluating and assessing performance against agreed standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- ☐ **25 – 40 years old**
- ☐ **Must be a college graduate with at least 2 years business experience with a successful track record in sales or customer service environment.**
- ☐ **Must have managerial experience**

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES (FE)

The position entails meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services and a lot of relationship building.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- ☐ **25 – 35 years old**
- ☐ **Must be a College graduate with at least 2 years professional experience with a successful track record not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry**
- ☐ **A background in pharmaceutical, airlines, stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage**

SKILLS & QUALITIES OF THE AREA MANAGER & FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE:

- ☐ **Good interpersonal skills**
- ☐ **Excellent oral & written communication skills (Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage)**
- ☐ **Sound analytical / numerical skills**
- ☐ **Effective judgment and comprehension**
- ☐ **Confident disposition/positive nature & outlook**
- ☐ **Ability to listen**

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, 12th of December 2003 to

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2390, Makati City
or
may.soneja@axa.com.ph or fax: (02) 844-3911

Philippine AXA Life will offer chosen candidates a salary-based package plus excellent incentives, comprehensive training, and a very rewarding career in the financial services Industry.

Member of the Metrobank Group

SPLASH CORPORATION

"Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino."
Kayang tumapat sa buong mundo.

Invites candidates to grow with the biggest wholly FILIPINO-owned manufacturer of Personal Care and Beauty Products

CORPORATE QUALITY MANAGER

(Code: CQM)
(A Senior Managerial Position)

CAREER OBJECTIVE:

To contribute to the corporate objective of progressive profitability through leading, implementing and evaluating quality initiatives and best practices that would facilitate continuous process improvement along the supply chain of Splash Corporation.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or any business related course preferably with MBA degree or units
- Minimum of 5 years experience as Senior/Middle Manager in charge of organizational quality initiatives in top 500 Philippines or foreign-based corporations.
- Experience in Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Assessment and TQM program implementation, an advantage.

Specific Competencies: Analytical thinking, Building a successful team, Adaptability, Resource management Innovative, Decision-making, Problem-solving, and Mentoring

The candidates must be goal and result oriented and must be able to adapt to the corporate culture that values teamwork, excellence, quality and productivity.

Applicants are required to submit or e-mail their application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent photo.

Highly competitive compensation package awaits successful candidates!

Kindly indicate **JOB CODE** in the first page of your resumé.

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
3F HBC Corporate Centre
548 Mindanao Ave., cor. Quirino Highway, Quezon City
Mail to: Mr. Mike B. Mapua (Human Resources Officer)
E-mail: mbmapua@splashcorp.com

Your application will be held in strictest confidence.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.

A reputable Property Development Company
is urgently in need of a

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with 3 to 5 years experience in litigation and corporate and property law practice. Competitive coompensation and benefits package await the qualified candidate.

Send your resumé, latest picture and transcript of records to
P.O. Box 1453 MCPO 1254 Makati City or
e-mail to roxaco@pworld.net.ph
**Only pre-qualified candidates will be called for interview.*

MARCEL TRADING CORPORATION
5/F, 926 Araneta Ave., Q.C./Tel. 712-2631
or e-mail at: hr@ marcelcarrageenan.com

We are in urgent need of the following:

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS

Graduates of:
- ☑ Food Technology, Chemistry, Marketing, Management, Chemical Engineering

Knowledge in:
- ☑ Computer Applications (at least knowledgeable in MS programs)
- ☑ Research methods and techniques
- ☑ Methods of reports preparation
- ☑ Writes well
- ☑ Fluent in English
- ☑ With at least 6 months experience in related field

Please apply in person w/ your resumé, 2x2 photo & TOR.

jICA JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
PHILIPPINE OFFICE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a government agency responsible for implementing the technical cooperation programs of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). For more information, refer to JICA's Homepage: http://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/index.html.

JICA, an active development partner of the Philippine Government, is looking for a dynamic and competent staff with a high degree of initiative to join its organization:

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The staff will be working with a Japanese counterpart and shall be responsible for administrative, logistic and technical support for the implementation of programs and coordination with government officials in the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of JICA's technical cooperation programs. The staff may also be assigned to others posts within the office, depending on his/her performance.

Qualifications:

* Male/Female, 25-30 years old
* Graduate of a four-year university course
* With at least three-years working experience in a related field
* Excellent oral and written communications skills
* Proficient in basic computer skills
* Good interpersonal skills, adaptable, willing to learn

The recruitment will be handled by the Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc (TTT-ICI). All applicants must submit their Curriculum Vitae on or before December 21, 2003 to TTT-ICI at Unit-E Lower Ground Floor, Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City or e-mail to tttici@axti.com or fax to 772-1889

(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)

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We partner with international consulting/training organizations to provide internationally accredited training programs.

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You can start a career in the call center industry if you possess the following qualifications:

> College Graduate and Undergraduate
> Fluent in written and spoken English
> Computer-literate
> Willing to do night shifts
> Can thrive in a fast-paced environment
> Service-oriented

We invite you to bring your resumés for immediate processing to:
Level 16, Unit 1606, Tower 1, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
848-6960
asialink@asiapartners.net
www.asiapartners.net

A-Z ACCESS PHILIPPINES, INC.

A-Z Access Philippines, Inc., a direct marketing service company, is urgently in need of the following:

TELEMARKETING SUPERVISOR (Code: MSV001)

- Not more than 30 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With a Bachelor's degree on any four year college course
- With at least 1 year supervisory experience in Telemarketing is a definite plus
- With excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in both written and verbal English communication
- Must be assertive, highly organized, and trustworthy
- With strong leadership and decision-making skills.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (Code: CP002)

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- With a degree in Computer Programming or any computer-related courses
- With at least 1 year work experience in Computer Programming and in system development involving Clipper, FoxPro and Database applications
- Background in Visual Basic is an advantage
- Good oral and written communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be hardworking, trustworthy, analytical, and keen on details
- Can work under minimum supervision

QUALITY ASSURANCE STAFF (Code: QA003)

- Not more than 28 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With a Bachelor's degree in any Business-related courses
- Must have previous work experience in telemarketing of credit cards
- With excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in both written and verbal English communication
- Must be a team player, highly organized, and honest
- Can work under minimum supervision.

TELEMARKETERS (Code: TM004)

- Not more than 28 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With work experience in Telemarketing an advantage
- Have excellent communication skills
- Must be assertive, hardworking, resourceful, honest, and results-oriented.

Interested applicants must submit their comprehensive resumé indicating the position code applying for and recent 2x2 ID picture not later than ***Dec. 22,2003*** *at:*
4th floor, A-Z Bldg., 723 Sgt. Bumatay St., Plainview, Mandaluyong City, look for Maan or e-mail at hrd@azapinc.com

---

A Marketing Communications and Strategy Company

is urgently looking for

Writers

- 21 years old and above
- Eglish, Journalism, Communications graduates, preferably from a Manila school
- at least 1 year professional writing experience (exceptional graduates welcome)
- adept in food, fashion, lifestyle, business and news writing
- creative and hardworking
- excellent written and oral proficiency in English and Filipino
- can multi-task

Marketing Communications Assistants

- 21 years old and above
- graduate of a 4-year college course
- male or female
- excellent work ethic, no clock watchers, please
- self-starters and initiators
- very organized and logistics-oriented
- excellent interpersonal office skills
- can multi-task

Please send your CV, sample works (for writers) and three verifiable references with phone numbers to **info@gelaermaclang.com**. Fax to 890.1430 or 896.8135.

We will give you the chance to be the best SAP CONSULTANT in the Region!

If you:

- **belong to the top 10% of your batch in UP / ADMU / DLSU / MIT / UST**
- **graduated with BS in ComEng, ComSci, IE,MEM, ChE, CE, ME, BAA**
- **computer tools-savvy, i.e., ms excel**
- ***for those who have extensive business experience in the fields of Supply Chain Management and Corporate Planning, you are welcome to join in and have a crack at the lucrative IT Applications Consulting career!***

Hand-carry your CV and Transcript of Records to Ms. Ellen Muscat, Corp. Recruitment Head, Ramcar Center, 80 Roces Ave., Q.C., or email to: ebmuscat@motolite.com

Deadline of filing: Dec. 12, 2003

DESIGNS LIGNA

Is in need of the following:

LOGISTICS SUPERVISOR

Responsible for receiving and ensuring quality of all Designs Ligna furniture pieces and accessories. Ensures proper storage and monitors movement of all inventory. Also schedules and supervises the delivery group.

Must have experience, maturity to carry this management position. Works out of the factory in Bicutan and reports directly to the sales manager.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Front lining for Designs Ligna is not for everyone. To have the opportunity to work for one of the leaders in domestic home furnishing, one must have an appreciation for fine interiors, and be able to relate to our discriminating clients.

A degree in Interior Design from a reputable school is a must.

One must be willing to work 6 days a week in a mall setting.

SALES SUPERVISOR

Responsible for the operations of a furniture retail store. The sales supervisor takes an active role in front line selling – while supervising the sales team.

Sales in a retail environment experience of at least 3 years is a must. A minimum of 2 years in a management position is required. Must be an interior design graduate from a reputable school.

One must be willing to work 6 days a week in a mall setting and reports directly to the sales manager.

We are happy to receive your resumés at:
dlignahires@skylnet.net

ATTENTION

Acer, one of the top and market leading PC vendor in the Philippines, is inviting applicants to apply for the following position:

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

☐ With experience in managing service center and in handling technical support service personnel
☐ With excellent knowledge on computer hardware and software applications

Qualified applicants may submit their resumés (with 2x2 colored photo) to the following address on or before December 12, 2003.

ACER PHILIPPINES, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 3401, 34th Floor, PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St.
(formerly Herrera St.) Makati City

Or e-mail: cecille_mauri@acer.com.ph

GRAND JOB FAIR THIS DECEMBER

BUENCONSEJO-ILLUSTRADO & ASSOCIATES

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- **JUNIOR MANAGER**
- **MANAGEMENT TRAINEE**
- **CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

48-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & any MED. courses
* License of Non-License & good pleasing personality

38-GRADUATE OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archi.
* Self motivated & willing undergo training

28-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Edc., Philo & Psyc
* Managerial skill is an advantage

12-GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses.
* Creative, good analysis & hardworking

EX OFW/OCW ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

- Age 20-35 years old, with or w/o experience. Willing to be assign in different positions available in the company.
- Hiring starts on Dec. 8-12 & Dec. 15-19, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM). **Accepted applicants from Dec. 8-12 & Dec. 15-19, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).**

NO EXAMINATION GIVEN

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credential and 2x2 picture at:
#235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Saver's Square & Allied Bank, walking distance form MRT Taft & LRT Edsa Station)

Look for MS. ESTRADA

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We are a Manufacturing Company of consumer products with nationwide distribution and belonging to the Top 1000 Corp. We have vacancies for:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

To be assigned in the following areas:

1. Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
2. Tarlac City, Tarlac
3. Olongapo City
4. Baliuag, Bulacan
5. Balanga, Bataan
6. Catarman, Northern Samar
7. Catbalogan, Western Samar
8. Borongan, Eastern Samar
9. Maasin, Southern Leyte
10. Tigos, Davao Del Sur

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Must be resident of the above areas
- College graduate preferably with experience in sales
- Good personality, honest, diligent & trustworthy

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo to:

P.O. BOX NO. 12940, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City

Punongbayan & Araullo

Our client, **TVI Pacific Inc**, a well-established multinational company focused on mining exploration, development and acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, **urgently** needs top-caliber candidates for:

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS

One each for the Metro Manila, Cebu, and Siocon (Zamboanga Del Norte) offices

In the office of assignment, the successful candidate will exercise overall responsibility over the Company's accounting functions; preparation of financial analyses and forecasts; administrative and human resources functions; and implementation of adequate inventory, costs and other internal controls. He or she will be involved closely in all key business decisions.

Qualifications of preferred candidates include:

- Certified Public Accountant
- at least 5 years of relevant experience in accounting and controllership
- hands-on experience in the use of accounting software packages
- trustworthiness; mature and responsible outlook
- excellent interpersonal and administrative abilities
- good oral and written communication skills
  (For the Manila position, Mandarin-speaking candidates will be highly preferred. For the Cebu and Siocon positions, fluency in Cebuano is an advantage.)

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We invite you to bring your resumé to the HR & Communication Division of Punongbayan & Araullo, 19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City; email it to Fred.V.Damian@pna.ph; or fax it to him at 886-5591. For inquiries, please call 886-5511 local 725. Visit us at http://www.punongbayan-araullo.com.

Please include in your resumé your current and expected compensation.

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For Naga, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos

Will be responsible for the overall operations of the branch; Sales, marketing, credit and collection, etc.

- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business course from a reputable school
- With at least five years experience in selling office machines and equipment, two years of which is in managerial capacity
- Knowledge in sales planning activities is required; priority will be given to those with brand management exposure
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Male/Female, 28-35 years old
- Preferably resident of Naga, Cagayan de Oro or General Santos

ASST. MARKETING MANAGER

Will be responsible for the implementation of Marketing strategies and projects

- Graduate of Marketing or Advertising from a reputable school
- With at least 2 years experience in the same capacity
- Male/Female not more than 27 years old
- Must be artistic and creative with excellent communication and leadership skills

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

FOR COPIERS

[illegible]

Will be responsible for promoting and selling Digital copiers and printers

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience in selling office machines and equipment; a good working knowledge in computer operation, applications and networking are major advantages
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

JUNIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

FOR COPIERS

[illegible]

- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Determined to pursue a career in sales
- Male/Female not more than 25 years old

DEALER COORDINATORS

FOR EPSON PRINTERS

[illegible]

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience coordinating with dealers
- Hardworking and self-motivated
- Willing to travel and work long hours
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old

ADMIN. ASSISTANTS

(For La Union, Zamboanga, Tacloban

- BS Accountancy graduate
- With one year experience in administrative functions
- Must be proficient in computer applications
- Must be responsible and can work for long hours
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Preferably resident of La Union, Zamboanga or Tacloban

SERVICE ENGINEERS

For La Union, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Butuan

- Graduate in any of the following fields: BS Electrical Engineering, BS Electronic Communication Engineering and BS Computer Engineering
- Must have the dedication and competence for intensive training
- Male, not more than 25 years old
- Preferably resident of La Union, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan or Tacloban

ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting graduate, CPA an advantage
- With at least one year working experience
- Must be analytical and keen to details
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- Willing to work in Sucat, Paranaque City or Makati City

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:

Recruitment & Training Group
U-BIX CORPORATION
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph

Konica EPSON RISO okamura

IIRR

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a global intermediary development organization working in several countries with the poor and their communities as our partner, enabling them to improve their lives and achieve their full potential. At present, IIRR is seeking to fill the following posts:

Web Development Associate

Reporting to the Director, Regional Center for Asia, the Web Development Associate is accountable for the security and integrity of IIRR website, and the development, maintenance and continuous updating of the IIRR website and other sites that IIRR manages in collaboration with specific institutional partners. The post will ensure periodic review and enhancement of assigned website in terms of content, layout, appearance and functionality. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree in computer, information systems, or other related discipline; a minimum of 3 years experience in web design, computer applications or other comparable areas in web development; effective oral and written English; demonstrated experience and in-depth knowledge in web protocols and standards, HTML, and Dreamweaver and Frontpage softwares; preferably with knowledge and experience in developing and managing web-based database using Java Script, SQL, ASP, XML and other related programs; familiarity with relational databases, server-side scripting and content management; and demonstrated ability to work in teams and with experience from a multi-cultural or NGO setting.

Head, Conference Facilities Unit

The Head, Conference Facilities Unit is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising the effective operation, maintenance and promotion of IIRR's conference facilities at the Y.C. James Yen Center in coordination with the management team. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree in hotel and restaurant management, business administration or other related discipline; experience in marketing, hotel and restaurant/other related operations; effective oral and written English skills; and with experience from a multi-cultural or NGO setting.

These posts are based in Silang, Cavite. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest not later than **December 10, 2003**, together with curriculum vitae; contact information; three letters of references with address and contact numbers; recent passport-size photograph; and transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Office
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Tel: (046) 414-2417; Fax (046) 414-2420
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org or visit our website: www.iirr.org

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A person who has passion for life and excellence?
THEN, now is the best time to move!

We are in search of highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Servers Receptionists Cooks
Cashiers Cost Control Staff Bartenders

To qualify, successful candidates must have an HRA/HRM degree or any related four-year course and at least 1 year relevant experience *(fresh graduates are welcome to apply too)*. Must have good communication skills, customer-focused and a team player. Applicants must be willing to undergo training in all aspects of our operations.

Up to this challenge?

Send your resumé, 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, and Certificates of Employment or clearance from previous employer to:

HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

(POSITIONS AVAILABLE UP TO DECEMBER 22, 2003)

Managing Director needed

We are a non-stock microfinance organization called "Sustainable Economic Activity Development Inc." (SEAD) and we provide technical assistance, training and wholesale loan financing to local cooperatives and NGOs to support their microfinance activities. Details about our organization are found in our website – www.sead.org.ph Currently, we need a **Managing Director**, who shall serve as the chief executive officer of the organization, He/she will be responsible for all day-to-day activities of the organization; for implementing the business plan, guiding all planning and budgeting activities, supervising and directing all field staff, and preparing financial / operational reports. The Managing Director directly reports to the Board of Trustees. The qualifications of the Managing Director that we need include the following:

- Proven management and leadership skills; with at least 7 years of actual work experience;
- Participatory management style and committed to good governance practices;
- Strong microfinance or banking experience; with good financial management and analytical skills;
- With proven integrity; free from any vice;
- Social-development oriented; Filipino citizen;
- Age is 35 years old or older;
- Job is based in Metro Manila but requires extensive local / provincial travel;

Compensation will range from P40,000 to P70,000 depending on qualifications. Applicants may send in, by postal mail, their applications and biodata to SEAD Inc. c/o CARE, PO Box 2052 Manila Central Post Office, Manila, Philippines, or by LBC to SEAD c/o CARE, #55 Don Benito Hernandez St., Jalandoni Compound, Pasay City, 1300 Metro Manila. Deadline for applications is January 5, 2004. All applications will be treated confidentially. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Our company is an international power generation firm. It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts of the world. We offer compensation package that is competitive in the energy industry.

Currently, we are looking for a qualified candidate to assume the following position:

Public Affairs Specialist

- College degree holder in communications or related field;
- At least five (5) to eight years experience in Public Affairs and Corporate Communications;
- Proven ability to communicate effectively; both oral and written form;
- Must be a team player;
- Willing to work long hours;
- With good organizational skills;
- Can work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Good time management;
- Ability to do multi-tasking job in a dynamic environment;
- Proficient in MS2000 Application such as PowerPoint, Excel, MS Word, and Office 2000:

Successful candidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars

Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:
THE HRD Department
Email address: **lms_recruitment2003@yahoo.com**

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Sales professional is also master at people management

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR Focus

HAVE you ever stood mesmerized by salespeople in malls demonstrating the newest and most amazing products to grace our shores? This effective "show-and-tell" technique is a "trademark" of Edmark Group of Companies. A pioneer of product demonstration in the country, Edmark takes selling to another level. They market products in public places by showing its features accompanied by an energetic script from a "live" salesperson.

Pioneer

Grabbing a passerby's attention is not an easy task. This is why Edmark only hires the most outgoing and outstanding demonstrators. Managing this difficult task is Vilma S. Soldao, Edmark's assistant general manager. "In our type of organization, we don't really have somebody solely assigned to the HR function. But we have a management team that decides on every personnel issue. I am a part of the team since I handle operations, sales and marketing," says Soldao.

Aside from sales, marketing and operations, Soldao oversees the company's personnel management. "I find myself fortunate because we had been trained here to be 'multitaskers.'"

Hard work

The second to the youngest of five siblings, Soldao struggled to get where she is now. Apparently, she was trained to handle many tasks at the same time as early as college. Coming from a poor family, Soldao had to work while she went to Polytechnic University of the Philippines to support her family and her education. "I was an average student but very determined to finish schooling because I had conditioned my mind that I will be able to help my family once I finish my schooling," Soldao recalls. "Being poor gave me the will and strong determination to do whatever it takes to finish college." Determination earned Soldao a degree in Business with a major in Marketing Management.

As a working mom, Soldao juggles various work and family responsibilities as well. A single parent, Soldao has to perform dual roles for her only son. "I m very proud of my son because I was able to raise him all by myself. I learned so many things in life. I learned to face fear and moved on in spite of what sad experiences I had," Soldao unabashedly shares.

Good business exposure

Eleven years with Edmark, Soldao has been exposed to the different aspects of the business. After a six-year stint with Modern Paper Group of Companies, Soldao joined Edmark Group of Companies as marketing manager trading kitchen, office and school products.

Before long, Soldao was promoted to assistant general manger. She learned every aspect of the daily operations focusing mostly on stock forecasts, sales projections and manpower. According to Soldao, these are the three vital considerations in every business. But of all three, it is manpower administration that keeps her adrenaline high.

In her day-to-day dealings with different kinds of people, Soldao realized that she loves the art of people management. People management for Soldao encompasses not only external clients. Personnel management is also part of Soldao's territory.

Service

Although a daunting task, Soldao relishes the challenge of human relations. "I find personnel management very challenging because managing people at work has plenty of flexibility and adjustment that you need to learn."

According to her, personnel management is synonymous to serving employee needs. At Edmark, employee needs are priority. "It is our belief that when you are able to deliver results to them (employees), you'll gain their support, trust and confidence."

Delayed gratification

In return, Soldao expects her people to adopt the right attitude at work. Edmark encourages their employees to "plant first before expecting to harvest." Soldao calls this principle as "delayed gratification." Employees are expected to put in a lot of hard work and prove determination before expecting any rewards.

As assistant general manager, Soldao leads by managing herself first. "We have to conquer ourselves first before we conquer others. We have to impose self-discipline first before we impose disciplinary actions towards others," shares Soldao.

Soldao improves on herself and her craft through continuous learning. She learns and discovers through studies, seminars, reading and research.

Last month, Soldao attended a seminar in Selangor, Malaysia. Entitled "Rewriting the story of your life, Vision Mountain," the seminar made a great impact on Soldao's outlook in life. The seminar was designed to spark spiritual awakening. "Thanks to this seminar I now understand and realize that God wants us to be happy and that we live in order to love and love in order to live."

But the most invaluable source of wisdom and knowledge for Soldao comes from interaction and experience. "The more I deal with people the more I understand myself. The more I communicate, the more I easily reach out, learn and enjoy my work."

PHOTO BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SOLDAO, Edmark's assistant general manager

THE SEMINAR series "Successfully Woman: A Guide To Succeed In Work and Life" was presented by ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.'s Metro Working Mom in November. The event presented Working Mom readers the opportunity to talk about issues and concerns with fellow working mothers and with experts in their field. Held over three nights at the SGV Hall of the AIM Conference Center Manila, the series presented topics on "Communicating with Power" by Ms. Lirio O. Mapa, VP of Center for Leadership and Change, "Developing a Winning Image" by Ms. Mariecor Salas-Ding, President of MSD Personnel Development Consultants, and "Becoming A Manager-Leader" by Josefina O. Santamaria, President of Career Systems, Inc. The event was sponsored by Philam Life and Meralco.

We are a progressive marketing and promotions company situated in Makati City specializing in below-the-line advertising, promotional and merchandising efforts as well as events management. We have satellite offices nationwide *(Iloilo, Pampanga, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, General Santos, Naga and Cagayan)* and still growing.

We need the following competent individuals to work with our clients on their marketing support activities from planning, project implementation up to the analysis and evaluation of the results thereof.

SALES and PROMO COORDINATOR *(Supervisory Position)*
- College graduate
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- At least 2 years work experience
- Experience with consumer products preferred
- Familiar with trade marketing activities
- With keen eye to details
- Computer-literate

(This position is also open to applicants from Iloilo, Pampanga, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, General Santos, Naga and Cagayan.)*

PROMO GIRLS
- Female, at least 5 feet and 2 inches, below 27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- With pleasing personality
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience in wine sampling is an advantage

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- Fresh graduates and entry-level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Computer-literate
- Multi-tasker

PHARMACIST:
- Male/Female, below 30 years old
- Familiar with BFAD and other government-related requirements
- Computer-literate

Please send your application letter, comprehensive resume stating salary history, 2 x 2 picture and transcript of records at:

5th Floor, FCC Building
7494 Santillan Street, Makati City
Email : dcmarketing2003@yahoo.com

** We will respond to qualified applicants only.*

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Pls. submit the following:
- Letter of Intent
- Comprehensive Resume with (2) 2x2 ID pictures
- NBI/Police Clearance
- Company Profile
- Photocopy of Business License
- BIR Registration, DTI Permit, SEC Permit
- Map of business address

Mail the above requirements **no later than December 16, 2003** to:

Dealership c/o Sales Department
Adarna House, Inc.
Room 201, JGS Bldg., 30 Sct. Tuazon St.,
Quezon City, Philippines 1103

Or fax to (02) 372-3548 local 115 or e-mail to adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph or akel111@hotmail.com.

For more information, call (02) 372-3548 local 104 and look for Rachel Sta. Ana.

OTTO SHOES

One of the leading shoe manufacturers and retailers is in need of:

STORE MANAGERS/STORE SUPERVISORS
(Alabang, Imus, Cavite & Bacoor)
M/F, 24-30 years old * graduate of a 4-year Business/Management course * computer literate * with at least 3 years managerial/supervisory experience in a retail store * must possess strong leadership, managerial and interpersonal skills * customer service-oriented, dedicated and hard-working * will be responsible for the overall management of the store to achieve sales target and maintain efficient and effective strore operations.

FASHION SHOE DESIGNER
M/F, 21-28 years old * preferably graduate of Fine Arts * experience is preferred, but not necessary * must possess creative ability, strong sense of style, and be up-to-date with fashion trends * computer knowledge is an advantage.

CASHIER
Female, at least 5'2", 20-25 year old, single * college level/graduate * with experience in cashiering * have good eye-hand coordination ad be able to work accurately with figures and calculation * honest, tactful, friendly, and helpful to all customers

Interested parties may apply in person in business attire and bring comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 colored photo and transcript of records. You may also send your resumé to:

HRD-SELECTION AND HIRING
#2 Don Juan St., Villa Cecilia Subd.
Mambugan, Antipolo City
Tel. No. 646-7694 / 645-8037 / 646-8446
E-mail: jdlcaro6@yahoo.com

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* CAD ARCHITECT
ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE

* INTERIOR DESIGNER
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER WITH AT LEAST 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DETAILING AND COORDINATION WORK

* SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST
COLLEGE GRADUATE, PLEASING PERSONALITY

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BRING: BIO DATA WITH 2" x 2" PICTURE, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS / DIPLOMA, SAMPLE OF WORK.

APPLY PERSONALLY FROM 9:00 - 12:00 AM ONLY AT:
563 BONI SERRANO AVE.
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
- Male or Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate
- Familiar with construction materials

Applicants must come to the following areas where they will be assigned to handle sales and distribution of construction materials:
- Laguna
- Pampanga
- Tarlac
- Pangasinan
- Nueva Ecija
- Cavite
- Bataan
- Zambales

Please send your complete resumé with two (2x2) picture and scholastic records to:

P.O. Box N-169
Novaliches, Quezon City

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Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
APPLY AT:
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Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
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FOR THE FOLLOWING AREA OF ASSIGNMENTS:
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Trainee – *North Luzon*

General Qualification:
- M/F, 21-30 years old
- College Graduate, preferably in the field of Animal Science (DVM, BSAH, BSAS, BS Agriculture or any related course)
- Excellent command in oral & written communications;
- Honest, hardworking and aggressive;
- At least 2 years experience in Sales, previous experience in the field of Animal Health Industry and products would be an advantage.
- Preferably a resident or geographically familiar of the above mentioned areas
- Driving Skills required, with valid driver's license.

For Trainee requirements – newly graduates are welcome. *For Mindanao assignment*- candidates are preferably registered Veterinarian & with experience in poultry and swine raising; knows how to speak Visayan, Tagalog & English languages.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive Resumé, 1x1 ID picture and Transcript of Records at:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
2nd Floor Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Blvd.,Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 913-21-84 locals 121 & 136 Telefax: 913-21-84 loc 106
Email mars.guerra@eudoramail.com

The Blue Mountains

Salcedo Village's leading service-oriented and nature-inspired spa/salon is expanding. We are currently looking for dynamic professionals to take us to new heights.

1. **SPA MANAGER**
   Fantastic people skills, resourcefulness, willingness to learn, a healthy and well-maintained appearance and proper grooming, emotional/intellectual maturity and discretion are but some of the traits we would expect of you. Previous spa/salon management highly desirable as is sales and marketing ability.
2. **FACIAL, SKIN &/OR BODY THERAPISTS / MASSEUSES**
   Must be discreet, soft-spoken, and diligent with finesse and a pleasing personality. At least 18 months experience in a professional spa/salon environment preferred.
3. **PART-TIME SPA SPECIALISTS**
   We would also be interested to talk to medical doctors, nutritionists, dieticians and other qualified professionals who would like to venture into the spa industry.

Qualified applicants may mail or deliver their resumé (with current photo) to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Unit 103, Le Domaine Condominium
104 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel.: 813-5279

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* No experience is required to qualify applicants who are willing to undergo training

For **interested applicants**, please apply personally; bring your I.D. pictures, fill-out application forms or bring your bio-data on **December 01 (Mon.) to 05 (Fri.), 2003 at:**

Cabanatuan City Office: Office hours - 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.
2nd floor Solid Bank Bldg., #586 Maharlika Hi-way,
Brgy. Sangitan, Cabanatuan City

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Male/Female, 22-28 yrs. old; Industrial Engineering graduate; w/ 2-3 yrs. experience in a production set-up; self-motivated; creative, alert & resourceful; proficient in oral & written communication; computer literate

MARKETING ASSISTANT

21-25 yrs. old; Business Management graduate major in Marketing with experience in the same capacity

Send your updated resumé with
2 x 2 colored picture and
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Unit E 20-B Twin Tower Condominium

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TESDA ACCREDITED

The Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc., a Manila-based non-government organization working for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children, is in need of:

(1) Licensed Social Worker (for Manila)

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate in Social Work
- Experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights and child labour is an advantage.
- Has experience in case management and handling of children and women in distress
- Good in oral and written communications, especially in case documentation
- Computer literate
- Ability to work with team
- Good interpersonal relations especially with children
- Preferably single and willing to stay-in.

Interested applicants may apply personally. Please bring with them their application letter with comprehensive resumé on or before December 10, 2003. Applicants may also send their application directly to the:

Executive Director
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
E-mail: admin@visayanforum.org
Fax: 563-4514

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTANT-BOOKKEEPER

Male or Female, 21-25 years old, Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from a very reputable school
Must be self-motivated and hardworking
Must be a team player
Proficient in MS Windows Application and Accounting Software
- Must have at least two (2) years work related experience.

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resumé with contact telephone numbers/mobile phone, recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

The Country Manager
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Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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- With 1 year experience
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- Can deal with all types of people

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumés, portfolio or demo reel to: Monomer Bldg., Jose Cruz St., Barrio Ugong, Pasig City with contact numbers 671-7385 and 671-0998. Please look for Thea.

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For Immediate Hiring

A reputable company engaged in distribution of various electrical materials is in need of qualified:

Sales Personnel/Representatives

Qualification:
- Male or Female not over 25 yrs. old
- College graduate preferred
- Self-motivated and reliable
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

Please submit detailed resumé to:

66 9th Avenue (East), Corner 2nd Street,
Grace Park, Caloocan City
Tel. No. 361-4928

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- Graduate of Mass Communication or Journalism
- All-around broadcast journalists who can report on camera, segment-produce, edit or direct
- At least three years experience as broadcast journalist
- Available to work on a project basis

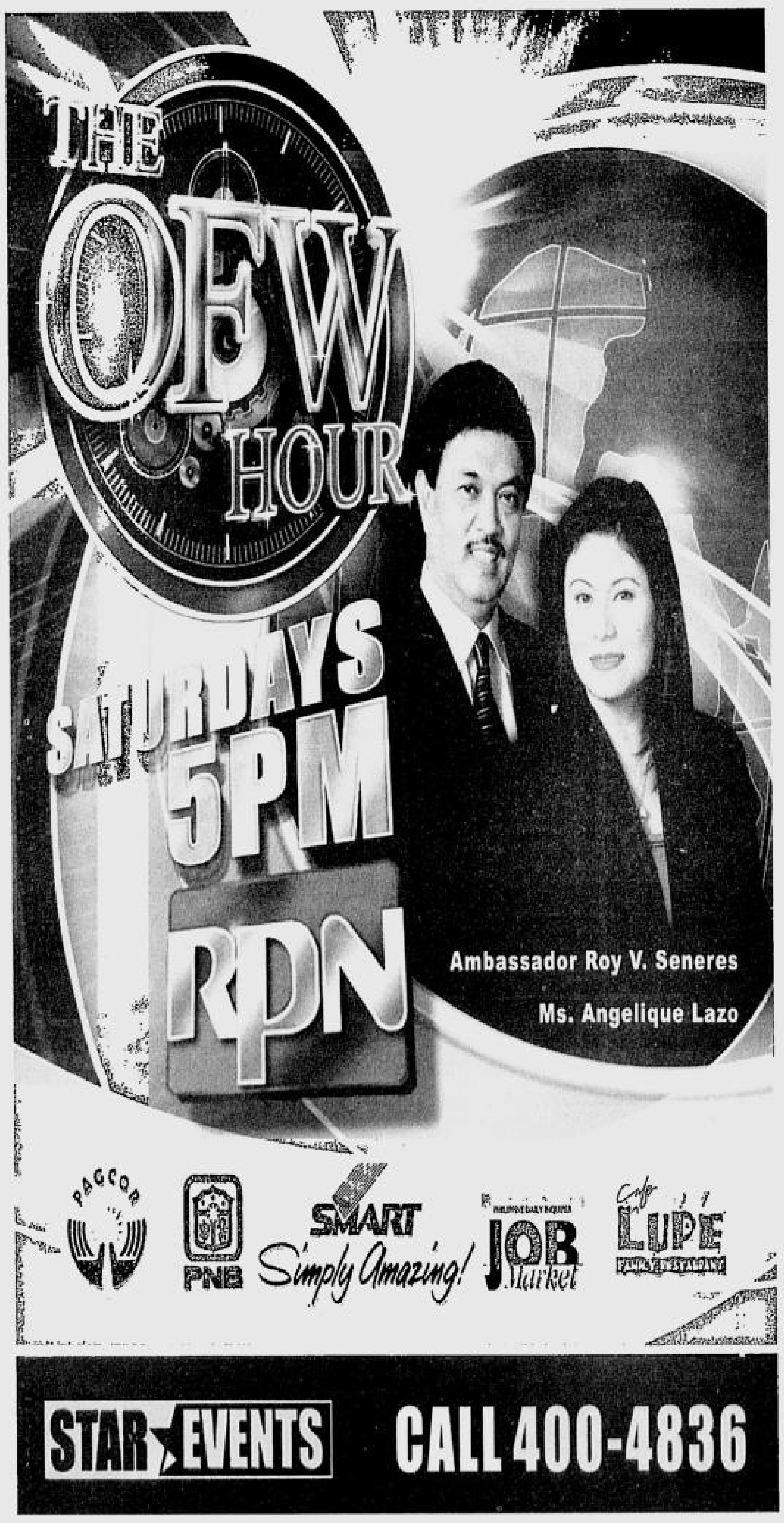
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/ PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

(Code: EA/PA TV)
- Graduate of Mass Communication or Journalism
- With at least one year experience in broadcasting
- With impressive organizational skills
- Available to work on a project basis

Please indicate Job Code on your envelope or the subject of your e-mail. Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



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How do you handle gaps in a resume?

ILLUSTRATION BY R. ELEFANO

DEAR WW: My resume looks like Swiss cheese. What can you do when your resume has lots of gaps?

Fill Me Up

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Speaking of gaps, check this one out. My friend, Natalia, recently went to Amazon to buy a book. Amazon has a feature that uses your previous purchases to figure out what books you'd like now. Natalia got two suggestions: first, Pokemon; second, the Dead Sea Scrolls...

Divergent as they were, Natalia's book recommendations reminded me that our lives are filled with gaps: gaps in interests, gaps in expertise, gaps in jobs. So you're not alone. Try the strategies below to fill your resume gaps and land that next job. For more, check out Robin Ryan's book, "60 Seconds and You're Hired" (Penguin, 2000).

Self-created

Is there really a gap? Some gaps are self-created. I recently saw a resume that said: ABC, Inc., January '95 to February '98. XYZ, Inc. November '98 to present. Now if the guy hadn't listed months on his resume, just years, he'd have eliminated that February to November '98 gap.

What was the reason for the gap? There are many reasons for a gap: personal illness, family illness, maternity, raising young children, self-employment, extended vacation. Depending on the job, the interviewer, and your frame of mind, you might want to consider the radical step of telling the truth. For example, caring for a family member who is ill could score you points for loyalty and commitment. Then, again, it may not. You'll need to decide how to handle each interview individually.

Can you prove that you've put the gap behind you? If a gap is pregnancy- or child- related, potential employers may question your ability to focus on the job rather than your child. Counter this by explaining why your child won't interfere. Explain your daycare and sick-care arrangements, how you've arranged to stay late occasionally, and other child-related contingency plans. Develop similar explanations for any gap that might be suspected of impinging on the job.

No lies

What if the real reason doesn't work? You know how when you have a blemish on your face that embarrasses you, you can't seem to leave it alone? Well, that's a tendency you have to avoid in interviews. Don't compensate for your gap by talking about it. Don't volunteer information. If the interviewer is concerned, she'll ask, and once she does you'll have to answer. Then you can discuss it honestly, but briefly. Whatever you do, don't lie, because lies are like time bombs, almost certain to blow up in your face.

Can you wow them with your strengths? Instead of worrying about your gaps, do what it takes to prove you're the best person for the job. That's the BEST way to get hired.

Anyway, who says gaps are a bad thing? Anyone whose interests span the gap from Pokemon to the Dead Sea Scrolls would make a heck of an employee, don't you think?

Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: How do you deal with gaps in your resume? (1,302 responses)

—Tell them whatever it takes to get the job, 19.8%

—Tell them mostly the truth, 30.7%

—Tell them the truth and nothing but, 49.4%

(Bob Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

PICPA'S 57TH ANC HIGHLIGHTS

An innovative learning partnership

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) successfully completed its 4-day 57th Annual National Convention in Legazpi City, Albay last Nov. 29, 2003. In an innovative partnering arrangement, PICPA invited Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Live! Seminar Series for an afternoon's presentation of three learning sessions and, for the first time, opened its convention to the public.

The PaW Live! seminar speakers were PaW editor Regina Galang Reyes who talked about "Discovering and Developing Your Passion in Life," ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.'s deputy editorial director An Mercado Alcantara who discussed "Getting Ahead at Work Wihtout Leaving Your Family Behind," and Blue Collar editor-in-chief Teresa Reyes Tunay who tackled "Creativity for Continuous Competitiveness."

The seminar series was sponsored by Job Market, Land Bank of the Philippines, Nestle Philippines, Manila Broadcasting Company, FEP Printing Corporation and Metro Working Mom.

PHOTO BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

THEN came 2,000 accounting professionals, learners

SPEAKER Alcantara

PHOTOS BY ERWIN PANALIGAN

SPEAKERS Neri, Alcantara, Reyes, Tunay (seated L-R), Inquirer HR Head Jesse Rebustillo, PICPA officer and Land Bank VP Boy Roxas (standing L-R)

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Co. Address : ____________ Workshop Title: ____________

SEND NOW VIA FAX : 776-4834 or EMAIL : rickydevera@pinpoint.com.ph
or CALL : 776-4364 or TEXT/CALL : 0917-3680781

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international organization has an immediate need for a DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the areas of energy and environment. The activities include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; the use of clean fuels such as natural gas and renewable energy; power industry restructuring and privatization; increasing efficiencies in power generation, transmission and end use; capacity building of Philippine Government agencies responsible for carrying out the policy reform; maintaining and expanding forest cover to serve as carbon sinks; and, reduction of air pollution from the transportation sector. The incumbent of this position will be responsible for coordinating and providing administrative and management support for formulating and implementing a renewable energy plan, associated institutional strengthening of local government units and constituency building objectives, public-private sector alliances and conflict mediation in target communities.

Minimum educational requirements is completion of a Bachelor's degree relevant to development assistance such as public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, or management. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. From five (5) to seven (7) years of progressively responsible, professional level experience is expected with at least four (4) years of which should have been in development assistance or related work in a donor agency, host government or private sector organizations. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) is essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than December 19, 2003**, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

JOB OPENING

In a young, dynamic and pioneering organization in Market Research and Consulting. If you're the type who wants a challenging and fulfilling career in market research, willing to learn, hard working and wanting to grow with a growing organization, send us your curriculum vitaé that details your experience c/o the following address:

Unit 209 Cityland Condominium 3
Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

We are currently in need of the following:

Research Assistant/Analyst (send CVs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- College graduate, single, female, between 22-28 years of age
- With at least 1-2 years experience in market research
- Good oral and written communication skills, fluent in conversing English a must
- Proficiency in analysis and presentation skills is an added advantage

Administrative Assistant (send CVs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- College graduate, single female, between 23-28 years of age
- With at least 1-2 years experience in this position
- Can converse in English and draft simple correspondence

Field Researchers/Interviewers (send CVs on Thursdays and Fridays)
- With or without experience in field interviews in market research
- At least 2 years in College
- Fluent in Chinese is an added advantage

Also in need of: Experienced TRANSCRIBERS, DRIVER and ACCOUNTING CLERKS (send CVs on Thursdays and Fridays)

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RESEARCHER

- *Female between 21 to 25 years old*
- *BS Food Technology degree from top university*
- *Excellent research, communication and written skills in English and Tagalog.*
- *Able and willing to do Field Research*
- *Preferably with experience in a Food Processing Company/Business*

Please forward your detailed curriculum vitaé, references and a recent 2x2 colored picture to:

Fax: (632) 687 21 16 local 114
E-mail: rengab1@hotmail.com

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ACCOUNT MANAGER

The Tasks

Evaluates and manages credit risks of Intermediary Financial Institutions (IFIs) under a wholesale lending program designed to expand Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) loans. Recommends actions to credit committee as a result of credit review. Provides continued close attention to and monitoring of IFIs under his/her supervision. Classifies accounts and performs corrective actions. Assists in the development and implementation of an enterprise support program that encompasses training, research and policy advocacy to strengthen competencies of SMEs and rural financial institutions.

The Requirements

A degree in Business, Banking and Finance or Economics. Preferably with Master's Degree, Minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in financial accounting and analysis, account management, exposure to operations in banking and credit management. Excellent marketing presentation and technical writing skills, and exceptional leadership qualities. Substantial exposure to SME market and operations an advantage.

GENERAL SERVICES UNIT MANAGER

The Tasks

Prepares and supervises the efficient implementation and discharge of general administration functions for the Foundation. Optimizes use of the Foundation's physical assets. Performs inventory management, maintenance and disposal of fixed assets. Provides logistics support to ensure smooth flow of business operations. Rolls out workplace systems that streamline office functions and assure safety.

The Requirements

With a degree in Industrial Management, Business Management or related field, and 5-7 years work experience in general administrative functions. Excellent negotiating, verbal and written communications and relational skills. Can maintain positive relationships with people at all levels of the organization. Knowledge in MS office applications. General knowledge of legal rulings pertaining to building codes, safely, licensing, etc. Knowledge in EMS and productivity / quality mangement desirable.

Please foward your resumé and TOR on or before December 15, 2003 to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes cor. Real Sts.,
Intramuros Manila
Tel.: 527-7741 to 51 I Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph • Website: pbsp@pbsp.org.ph

Cardam's

Cardam's, Inc., one of the major players in the Philippine retail industry for 30 years is looking for:

BRANCH MANAGER

Position is responsible for the over-all operations in the store.

General Qualifications:

- Male/Female
- 22-28 years old
- College graduate
- Superior oral and written communication skills
- Excellent customer service skills and problem resolution skills
- Personable, Highly motivated
- Willing to be assigned in different branches in Metro Manila

Interested parties may submit their resumé at
Unit 2601 Atlanta Centre, No. 31 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan.

Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

DAILY E-NEWSPAPER NEEDS

JUNIOR NEWS EDITORS

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FRIENDS AT WORK

Desire to serve Deaf binds friends, colleagues in school closer

By Mario M. Banzon

THEY come from diverse backgrounds and interests but passion, purpose and mission hold them together. Perhaps, comrades would be a more fitting word to describe the people at De La Salle University –College of St. Benilde School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (CSB-SDEAS), a unique school within CSB that offers a Bachelor in Applied Deaf Studies degree to differently-abled students.

Full service

Its faculty, which consists of both hearing and Deaf members, have such fervor for their jobs that it has eventually made them closer friends. Besides, the department needs all the help that they can get since the work that SDEAS does is not easy. Not only do they teach and mold the Deaf students, they also guide them in finding jobs after they graduate.

"What's the use of striving hard in giving them quality education when after college they have no jobs to turn to?" says Eric Daniel L. Soriano, explaining why they make it a point to place their graduates in jobs. Soriano is the SDEAS Coordinator for Career Education and Placement. To help the Deaf students find job opportunities, they give them guidance throughout the entire process of employment: from the time they are interviewed up to the moment they are hired by the company. "We also monitor our graduates regularly," he says. "We make it a point to always maintain an open communication line with the boss, with their colleagues, to get the feel of how they are doing in the office."

Best education

Most of the students of SDEAS are scholars who came from various mainstream and Deaf-specific schools around the country. Majority of them are from poor families and had barely made it to college. The department, however, is determined to give them the best education it can offer. In fact, the work at times entails long hours that would last until late at night. But the group gladly works even if they still have an early morning class the next day.

"I'm happy that I have been working with people who are extremely dedicated and passionate about serving the Deaf," Soriano gushes. Some have actually worked with the Deaf community even before the department was conceived, either with schools, non-government organizations or in their church communities. The members, apparently, have found the same people to share their sense of mission and dedication in the work that they do. "Perhaps, it's the desire to serve," reflects Soriano. "The desire to be of service is what binds the department."

Sign language

There is also another thing that the employees have in common. They all know how, or at least are learning, to use the sign language. "The good thing is that since there are also Deaf faculty members, the department is very sensitive in terms of dealing with Deaf colleagues." Whenever there is a Deaf person in the room, they make it a point to use sign language.

But despite the serious work, the SDEAS people are not always an intense, dead serious lot. On the contrary, upon entering their office, one finds a rather relaxed atmosphere where people greet you as you come in.

"During regular days, you would find people laughing or eating together," Soriano says. Or generally taking some time off from their jobs.

They are also text "fiends," sending text messages even late at night. Soriano recalls a cell phone advertisement in the early '90s, a time when text messaging was relatively unknown. It begun with a couple exchanging sweet nothings using text messaging and ended with the two bringing down their phones and starting a conversation using a sign language. "Our boss was the consultant for that ad," Soriano proudly points out. According to Soriano; technology has been a great help in bridging the communication gap in the Deaf community with email and text messaging being readily available.

Office conversation

Recently, the group held a birthday party / baby shower for their Dean who is expecting a child before Christmas. Since Soriano and his wife are also expecting their baby in January, some office conversations turn to baby matters. "My boss was the one who recommended that I attend childbirth classes. We also talk about what are the things that I should expect, the things that I should prepare, the things that I should do. When we purchase baby products, she is also the one whom I ask for advice." For others, the topics would range from family problems to postgraduate studies, from future plans to romantic relationships which, given the fact that most of them are single, is often a hot topic in the office.

Happiest times

Among all the happy times they have shared, Soriano admits that the best ones are when their students triumph. "It's when a student graduates or when someone finds employment or is given the chance to show his or her talents in an actual work setting, that for me is the most memorable," he says. "Because that's the work we are trying to do. To prepare them well in terms of knowledge, skills and attitude. For them to be independent, for them to be self-supporting, for them to be able to be productive citizens of the country." After all, in SDEAS, action speaks louder than voice.

PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

SDEAS faculty and administrative staff with Eric Soriano, SDEAS Coordinator for Career Education and Placement (standing, left)

SHARE A FRIENDS AT WORK STORY

ARE you part of a group of friends from college or at work who support each other or help others? If so, share your story with People at Work. Tell us how you and your friends face the challenges of the workplace or work together on a project that is dear to your hearts. You can write your story yourself or a PaW writer can interview your group and write the article. And yes, we will print a photo of your *barkada* in our pages! Send your suggestions through email to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph, fax at (632) 897-4811 or postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City.

'Can I waive my medical benefits?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
For the Anxious Person at Work

I AM 22 years old and a fresh graduate of an Engineering course. I am applying for a job and I have pending applications. In one company, I passed the written exams and preliminary interviews. The human resource person who interviewed me tells me they will call me for my second or technical interview.

My problem is, if ever I pass the technical interview and one of the requirements is a medical examination, will they hire me if I fail due to sick lungs? I am not really sure if I do have sick lungs, but that is how I feel because of my poor health condition right now. I am suffering from cough with phlegm for a long time now.

If I, indeed, have sick lungs, will they consider hiring me if I tell them that I am willing to waive medical benefits in case something happens to me during my employment period? Would they make such a contract with me?

I am eager to have a job right now because of the financial needs of my family. I can't afford to take time and rest. I need to have a job. I hope you could answer my question and give me sound advice.

Sick Applicant

I understand your dilemma. You need a job badly to support your family, but you sense that you may have sick lungs. I am sorry but companies would require you to be in good health. My suggestion is for you to visit a doctor immediately to find out if you are really sick and how gravely sick.

If you are really sick, companies will not give you a job contract even if you ask them to waive the medical benefits. Why? For several reasons: first, a sick person will not be able to contribute to the requirements of the job. He may not be reliable in terms of performance because he would be frequently absent. Second, companies want to hire and keep people for as long as they can. They want to optimize their investment in training and coaching new employees. Third, they would be equally concerned about your coworkers who may be subjected to a health hazard, in case your sickness is contagious.

The best thing for you to do is to see a doctor. If you are sick, then you have to rest. Rest is a worthwhile investment. I know your money needs are urgent. I hope some of our readers who are generous can come forward and offer help for the meantime that you cant work. Meantime, take care and God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send Feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*

COUGH
UBO...
SNIFF
A&R
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Work saves

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

ALLOW me to hide behind poetic license and declare work as salvation—our earthly salvation. For indeed, it is. We earn our keep by flexing our muscles, mental or physical. Work saves us from trouble; how often have we heard that the idle mind (or hands) is the playground of the devil? Work saves us from demeaning dependence on other people for our subsistence; there is dignity in knowing that the food we eat is the product of our labor. Work spares us from feeling useless when we do not employ our God-given talents to contribute to society's advancement. Work delivers us from the misery of wastefulness—for isn't life wasted when it is spent without work?

And how do we prepare for the salvation that is work? Training. Learning and developing skills, practicing to perfection. Training straightens us out—our skills are honed, our mistakes corrected, our excesses curbed, our lack filled. Harmful work attitudes are detected and eliminated by proper training, and positive values are set in place. It is at training that our rough edges are smoothed out, preparing us for the polishing that we need to shine as workers of excellence.

When we view work not as a burden but as a heaven-sent blessing that protects us from gloom and ruin, we accept it with a readiness to be shaped and molded by training to become its deserving recipients. Then it becomes our salvation, not only in our eyes, but also in the eyes of those who most need to see the saving power of work.

(E-mail the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

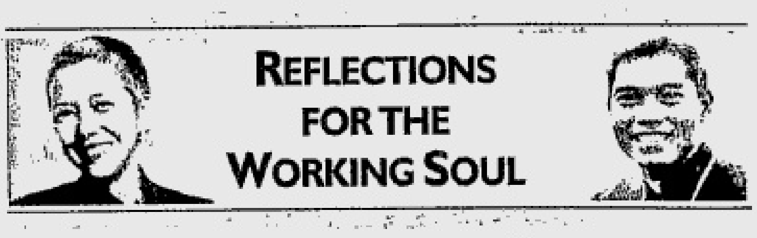

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ADRIAN MALANTC

Gospel Luke 3: 1-6

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Gaining spiritual life

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

AS WE begin preparations for Christmas, the verses in today's gospel chosen for this reflection sound like a massive, earthmoving work, all to "prepare the way of the Lord" into the hearts of people. This makes me pose questions to myself such as, "Do I really work so hard as to make my heart ready for the Lord to dwell in?" "Do I consider it as my work to live my life as a worthy sign of the Lord's presence among people?" My being a priest definitely makes it easier for me to answer the questions affirmatively. You too, in your "worldly" profession may ask these questions, to yourself.

While we spend out ourselves working, making both ends meet for our families, we need not use up all our energies just to keep ourselves physically alive; we should also labor to gain spiritual life. In fact, the Lord, the Giver of "life force" comes to dwell within us, to become like us in every way, experiencing every aspect of human existence so that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God". God wills that we all be saved and enjoy His life within us even with our work and in the workplace.

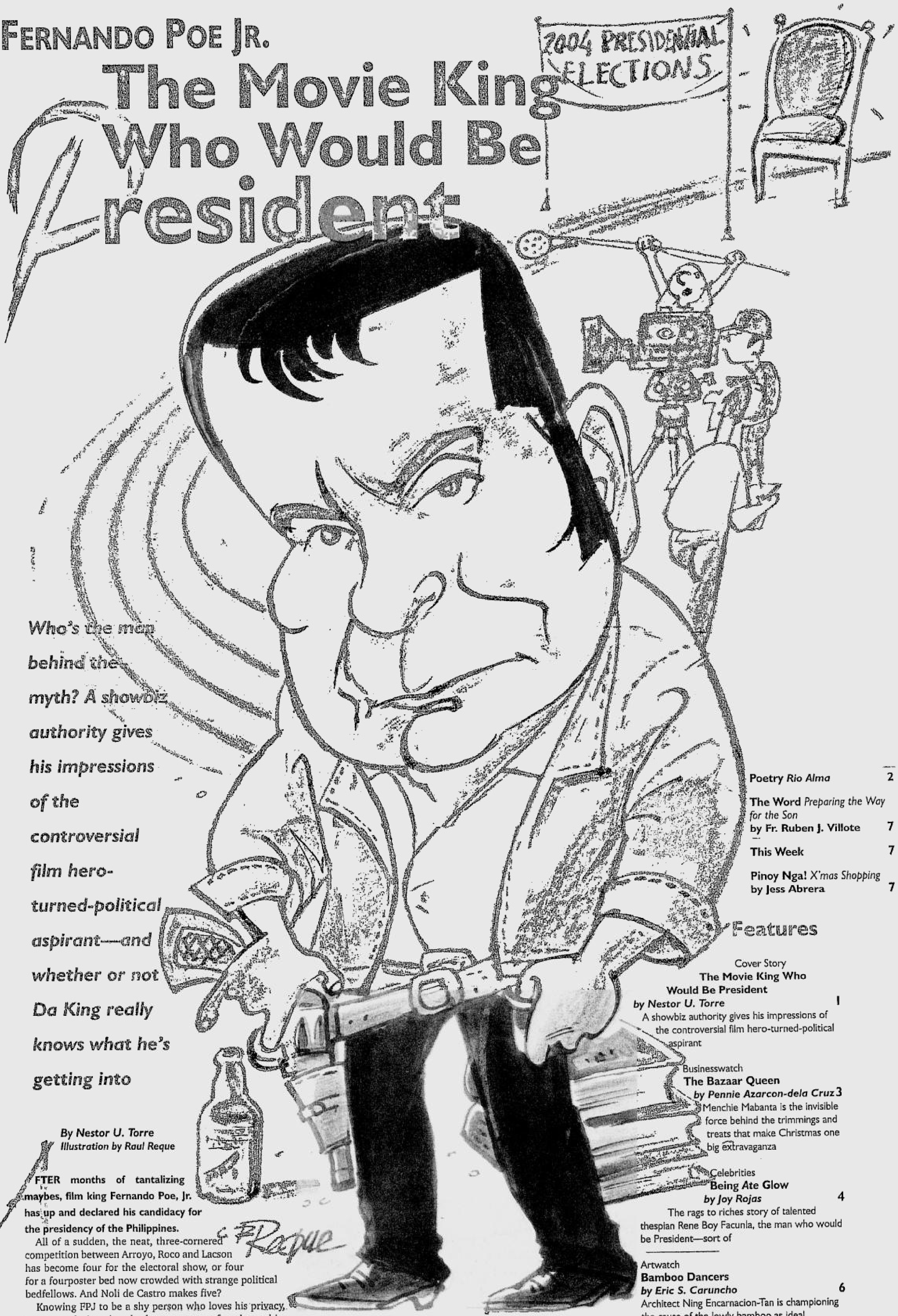
Accepting such will of God, both management and workforce will give great importance and priority to organizing activities, which will prepare the hearts of everyone in the company for the Lord to dwell therein. When everyone makes the sacrifice and the effort to be aware of the presence of Jesus in his heart, the work and the workplace become a means and a place for salvation—a concrete way of loving God and neighbor and a unique experience of being loved by God!

(E-mail the author at mfv@skyinet.net*)*

sunday Q magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
December 7, 2003

FERNANDO POE JR.

The Movie King Who Would Be President



Who's the man behind the myth? A showbiz authority gives his impressions of the controversial film hero-turned-political aspirant—and whether or not Da King really knows what he's getting into

By Nestor U. Torre
Illustration by Raul Reque

AFTER months of tantalizing maybes, film king Fernando Poe, Jr. has up and declared his candidacy for the presidency of the Philippines.

All of a sudden, the neat, three-cornered competition between Arroyo, Roco and Lacson has become four for the electoral show, or four for a fourposter bed now crowded with strange political bedfellows. And Noli de Castro makes five?

Knowing FPJ to be a shy person who loves his privacy, we can only imagine the huge amount of soul-searching that it took for him to give up the peace and quiet he cherishes in favor of the raucous, rambunctious world of politics, Pinoy-style.

Perplexed, you may ask: Isn't the life of a film superstar every bit as public and chaotic as a politician's? No, it isn't, because in the movie world, FPJ sets the rules, and everyone gives him the space he needs.

In the higher-stakes arena and goldfish bowl of politics, he has to play by rules beyond his control. That's a new ballgame for

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As pioneering Filipino adman Totoy Avellana goes off to that great ad agency in the sky, a former disciple remembers his mentor

FPJ

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him.

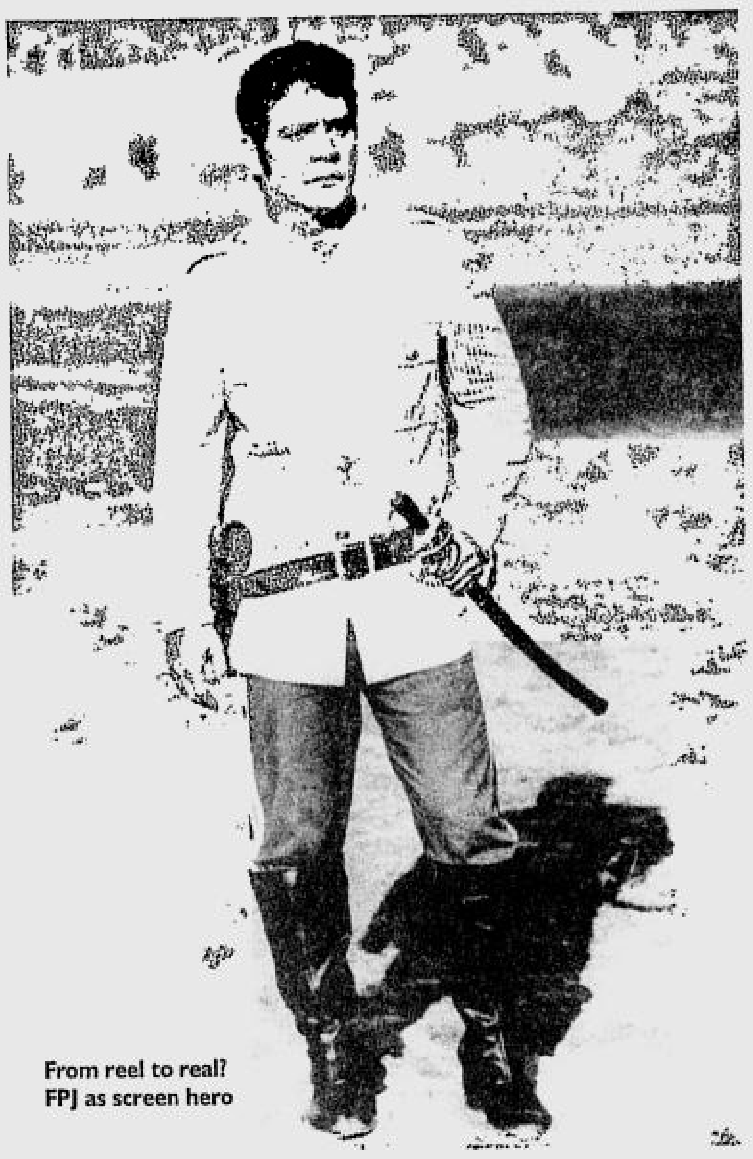
Did you see him on TV when he announced his candidacy at the Manila Hotel? He was caught in a swirl, a veritable maelstrom of people, who were forcibly pushing him to his presscon's venue. In the movie world, people idolize FPJ, but know that they have to respectfully keep their distance.

And, when he spoke to say that he was running, his words were mostly lost in the general cacophony and tumult, and he couldn't even hear himself speak! In his film "kingdom," that would never do.

Of course, some people point out that FPJ has campaigned all over the country for his best buddy, Joseph Estrada, so he isn't exactly a tyro when it comes to politics. But, the big change now is, *he's* the one who's running, so the focus and the attendant stress have taken on a radically different and heightened impetus.

Now that FPJ has tossed his cowboy hat into the presidential derby, many people admit to being bothered and confused—even fearful and angry.

Not really knowing much about him except through his movies, they turn to his showbiz colleagues and friends for insights that can help them evaluate him better as a possible president, beyond the usual pat generalizations.


From reel to real? FPJ as screen hero

We've talked to a number of movie people who know FPJ well, and these are their (hopefully objective) inputs:

His desire to help his countrymen is sincere—otherwise, he wouldn't have given up his quiet life. Yes, he's unprepared for governance in terms of education and experience, but he isn't corrupt, has a proven track record for caring for and helping others, is genuinely concerned about poverty, and wants to unite what he perceives to be a fragmented, contentious nation, and to inspire people to work harder for the common good.

Motherhood statements? Perhaps—but FPJ means them. He also means it when he says that he won't be held hostage by his advisers, his campaign's financial backers, and the "kingmakers" behind his "throne," including his best buddy. The country is in deep trouble, and he wants to help pull it out of the hole it's in, not send it spiraling further down to kingdom come.

Yes, the movies are a world of fantasy and escape, but in his trips all over the country, FPJ has seen the pinched, gaunt face of poverty, and wants to help the seemingly hopeless.

More motherhood statements, his critics scoff. They say they don't fault FPJ for his sincerity, genuine concern, basic goodness and patriotism, but the country's problems are too vast and complex for such facile solutions as the "common sense" that he's been quoted to have simplistically cited as a blanket solution for the nation's ills.

His friends understand all that, but point out that, while FPJ is a high-school dropout, he's a wide reader who has effectively "self-educated" himself. His exceptional success as film director and producer show that he's good at analyzing, synthesizing and organizing.

But working on a movie is nothing compared to running the affairs of an entire nation! Yes, say his friends, but he won't do it all by his lonesome.

So, who's going to help him, aside from the usual suspects? What's his cabinet and team of advisers going to be like? Patience—in a few weeks' time, everything will be announced in great detail.

Two of a kind: With good friend and former president Joseph Estrada

So, what are voters supposed to do in the interim, aside from worrying themselves to distraction? We can, FPJ's friends suggest, more productively relate our expectations of the movie king who would be president to the time of President Ramon Magsaysay, when the country experienced a relatively progressive period despite similar initial worries about RM's lack of preparation for the job.

Like Magsaysay, FPJ can surprise people with his genuine desire to unite the country, and to *inspire* Filipinos to rise above their defeatist, contrary tendencies, and save the nation. Don't discount the motivating and healing power of inspiration!

What about rumors about FPJ's less inspiring side, like the skeletons in his closet, his drinking, his angry outbursts, his all-night carousing? Fact is, his friends declare, he has fewer skeletons in his closet than many politicians. And, in his determination to serve, he can keep a firm lid on his excesses.

But, can he really do that?

Their logic: FPJ has worked hard to build up his good reputation, and he won't blow it all by allowing himself to fail.

But, what if in the next few months he realizes that he isn't the best person for the job? He'll be the first to say so, his friends declare. Really, now.

For our part, we've known Ronnie Poe for decades, and have admired his work as director ever since we saw one of his early efforts, *"Tatlong Hari,"* about three boyhood chums who grew up to be complex, contentious men.

Ronnie's perceptive direction of that action-drama told us that he was more than just a popular movie luminary, and had the heart of a film artist.

On occasion, we would stay up all night with him, sometimes in the company of our mutual friend, Behn Cervantes, and we would talk about everything under the moon and stars.

From those sessions, we gleaned his genuine love for the movie industry, his concern for training young film talents (he has funded some screenwriting seminars), his love for family, his loyalty as a friend.

On the other hand, we did see that he drank a lot, and could petulantly badger his drinking mates to stay up with him, even if they wanted to sleep. But Behn and I left when we felt we had to go, and Ronnie didn't force us to stay.

Another time, we talked to the owner of a bookstore, and we asked him who his best customers were. He surprised us by revealing that Ronnie Poe was at the top of the list.

Completely contrary to type, the action superstar loves reading all sorts of books, but told the bookstore owner to keep that "secret" to himself—for fear of blowing his "cover."

More recently, we chatted with somebody close to Ronnie, and we talked about his possible candidacy. She said he really didn't want to run (at the time). We then tested my "theory" on her, to the effect that, if FPJ did decide to run, it would partly be because he loved the film industry so much, and wanted to disprove the general view that movie people were stupid and corruptible.

The lady we were talking to thought for a while, then declared, "You know, if FPJ does decide to run, it would be partly for the reason you cited."

Of all of our encounters with Ronnie Poe through the years, the one that taught us the most about him was the time when we did our first in-depth interview of him. Contrary to his reputation for disdaining the press, he immediately agreed to talk to us at a restaurant of his choice.

When we began the interview, we found him to be friendly but rather guarded, declining to answer some of the "stronger" questions we asked. All the while, he was plying us with *pulutan* and bottles of beer.

After some hours, he got up and we went to a bar. More beer—and questions, both answered and un-. Ronnie was an "enthusiastic" drinker, but we surprised ourselves by holding our own.

Then we moved to a *third* venue, drinking and shooting the breeze all the while. It was here that Ronnie answered *all* of the questions we asked him, even the most personal and "controversial" ones. In perhaps trying to get us drunk so we would stop asking such pesky questions, it was Ronnie who had gotten tipsy!

At the end of our long interview, we felt that we had gotten to know the real FPJ, and we were properly grateful. Taking our leave of him, we looked at our watch and saw that our "traveling" interview had lasted all of seven hours! (It's still our longest interview to date.)

After sleeping off the effect of all those beers, we wrote our "scoop" article on FPJ, feeling very pleased with ourselves. But, early the next morning, he called us up and sheepishly asked us to edit out his most personal revelations, because they could negatively affect people close to him. Of course, we obliged.

But, during that ultra-long session with Ronnie Poe, we understood where he was coming from. And, through the years, he has added other facets to that prismatic view, like when he produced "Juan dela Cruz," National Artist for Film Gerry de Leon's masterpiece, despite its being an "uncommercial" project.

Sadly, Gerry died before he could finish shooting the historical epic. We viewed some of the movie's footage and found it excellent, so we urged FPJ, a competent director in his own right, to complete shooting the film himself, so viewers could benefit from its powerful insights about the Filipino nation.

But Ronnie said he wouldn't be able to match Gerry's genius, so "Juan dela Cruz" remains an unfinished masterwork to this day.

That's unfortunate, but FPJ's "artistic humility" despite his elevated status in the movie industry is revealing and disarming. That's why we said yes when he asked us to do his biography.

Still, many grave doubts and fears remain, as the nation mulls over the prospect of having another actor, no matter how well-intentioned, trying to lead the country for the next six years. FPJ clearly aims to give it his best shot—but will his best be good enough?

Experienced politicians and administrators say no, some *masa* sectors say yes, and others say maybe. We really should take time to get to know the man and his capabilities or limitations, and to go into the same long process of soul-searching that he himself went through, before he changed his own tantalizing maybes into a confident, committed yes.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine December 7, 2003
Vol. 16 No. 40 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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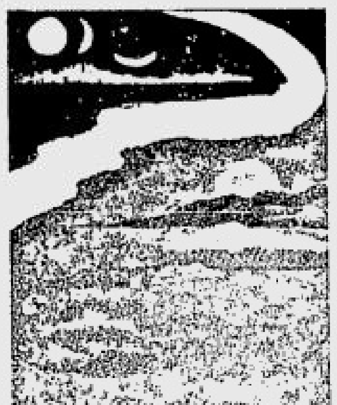
THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.



FILIPINO ARTISTS EXHIBIT IN HK Works of Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Virgilio Aviado, BenCab, Sid Gomez Hildawa, Ramon Orlina, Norma Belleza, Jeho Bitancor, Eduardo Castrillo, Jose Tence Ruiz and Phyllis Zaballero will be featured in the 18th Asian International Art Exhibition from Dec. 9 to March 18, 2004 at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Shown above is "El Nido, Adirondacks" by Phyllis Zaballero. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Sestina sa Inaasahang Pagreretiro

Minsang ipiit ka ng lakas ng ulan
Sa loob ng isang himpilang gusali
At ipinagbawal ng huklubang kulog
Ang paglalakbay mo sa ibang panahong
Masaya't malungkot, magulo't payapa

Sa gilid ng mundo't sa silong ng langit.
May bagong kalatas ang sungit ng langit
At ang kumakapal na rehas ng ulan--
May inihahandog na yugtong payapa
Sa hubad na dibdib ng puting gusali
Upang magkapatlang ang iyong panabong
Tigib sa patalim at pangil ng kulog.

Naimpok mong uban at kirot ng kulog,
Bigat wari ngayong binuhay ng langit
Upang tanggapin mong ito ang panahon
Ng pagpanatag mo sa himig ng ulan.
(Nagmistulang nitso ang putlang gusali;
Damdam mong anino'y ibig mamayapa.)

Ano pang tungkulin bago pumayapa
Ang dapat mong tupdin sa gitna ng kulog?
May tahanan ka na't moog sa gusali
Na masisidlan mo ng sariling langit;
Di rin kailangang sugurin ang ulan
Para sa mithi mong wala-sa-panahon.

Di ka ba natuto sa buong panahong
Hanap mo ang mithing tunay na payapa?
Ligtas na ang mutyang binihag ng ulan;
Patay na ang dragong lumikha ng kulog.
Ang hanap mong laya at tunay na langit,
Nupling, kung loobin, dito sa gusali.

Ngunit ang puso mo'y isa ring gusali
Ng mga gunitang imbak ng panahon
At kahit umabot sa pampitong langit
Ay binabalisa ng lunang payapa.
Kahit munting init (Tabi po sa Kulog!)
Ay mas minamahal kapagka maulan.

Sayang ang panahon ng pamamayapa
Sa puntod na itong gusali ng kulog:
Mas ganap ang langit ng tigmak sa ulan.

Rio Alma

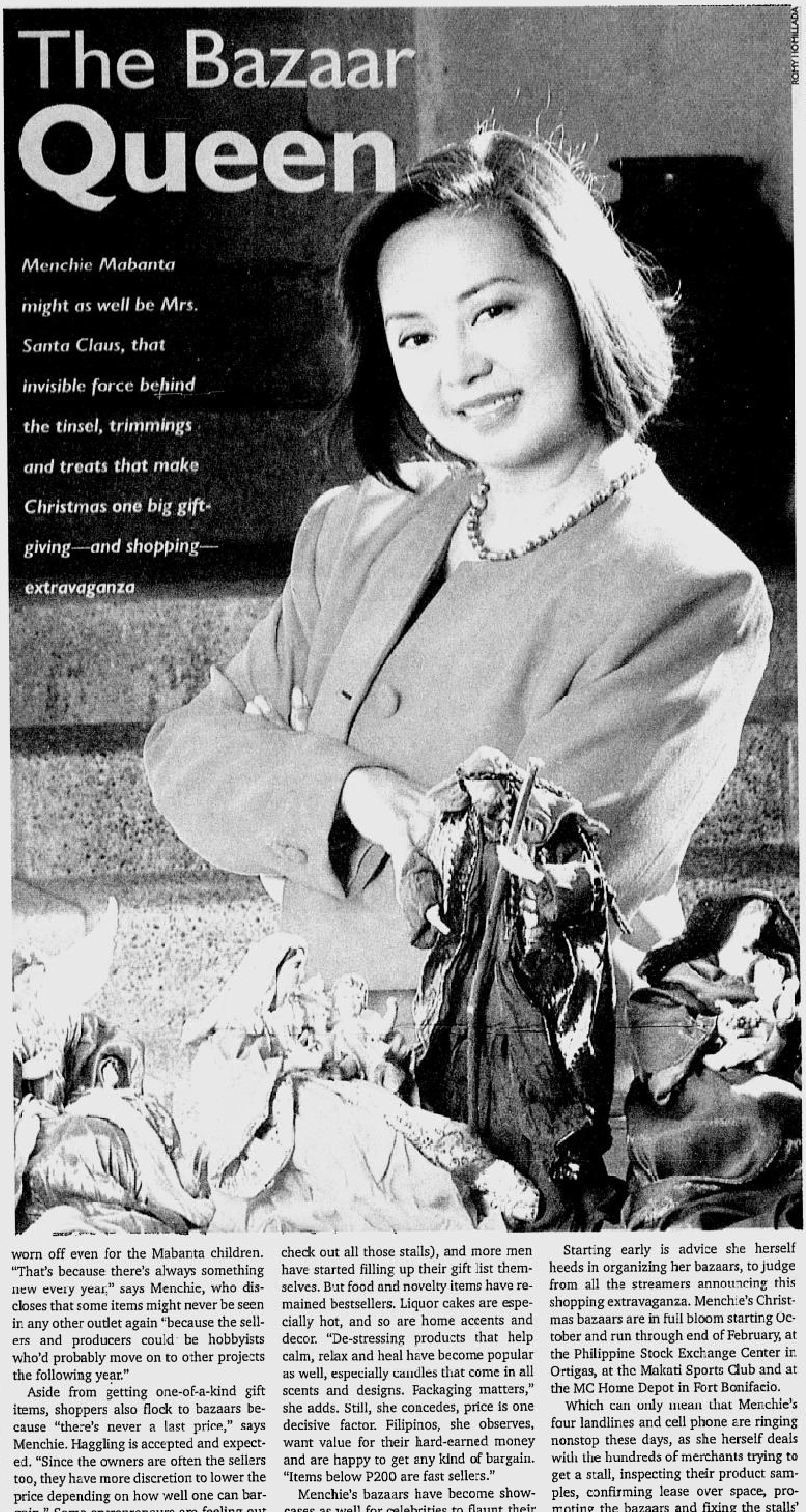
The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Businesswatch

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

The Bazaar Queen

Menchie Mabanta might as well be Mrs. Santa Claus, that invisible force behind the tinsel, trimmings and treats that make Christmas one big gift-giving—and shopping—extravaganza



ROMY HOMILLADA

YOU know it's that time of year again when: 1) even your favorite hardhitting newscast ends with a Christmas countdown; 2) the mall sound system is beseeching the heavens to "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow;" 3) street urchins are out in full force doing their best imitation of Tiny Tim, and 4) *tiangges* and bazaars are sprouting up in every vacant lot and cranny.

And when it comes to bazaars, Menchie Cruz Mabanta has it made, having been initiated in the business in 1981. In fact, "Menchie Mabanta Bazaars" has become a Mecca for small entrepreneurs feeling out the market for the first time, hobbyists flaunting their creativity, and shoppers out to flex their bargaining skills. All of which explain the burgeoning popularity of bazaars in the country the past few years, says this Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate who considers herself more of an events organizer.

Being one of 10 siblings, the young Carmencita Cruz had a lot of practice organizing birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries and other family gatherings, eventually parlaying these skills to themed children's parties and corporate functions where she supplied giveaways. At 17, while still studying at St. Scholastica's College, she undertook her first project with good friend Ida Ramos Henares. "We called it 'Exposition Extraordinaire,' featuring Manila's top 10 designers like Christian Espiritu, Chona Kasten, Joe Salazar, Gerry Katigbak, Mike dela Rosa, and others at Hotel Intercontinental," she recalls. "The designers put up mini-boutiques in the ballroom where they sold their creations, while top mannequins like Menchu Menchaca and Gina Leviste did fashion shows."

A confessed "adventurous and restless spirit," Menchie took up various courses during summer vacation, from ballet, jazz and modern dance to swimming, tennis, voice, cooking and baking lessons. But it was in start-up ventures that she really thrived. After her first try at bazaars in 1981 became a hit and an annual event, she went on to introduce gift-canning in the Philippines using personalized full-colored labels, initially for t-shirts. "Soon after, cans became the packaging of the season, " she says.

With her youngest of three children now a self-aware 13-year-old, Menchie has turned bazaars from a seasonal into a year-round preoccupation. Along the way, she's mastered all that it takes to turn the humble *tiangge* into a lucrative trade. In this business, she says, what you need is mainly marketing skills. "You should also be able to focus," she adds. Time management is just as important, but so is attention to details. "You must be very organized and be able to pay attention to a million and one details. I can be a perfectionist to a fault, but it's advantageous for the people I work with."

Indeed, being a stickler for details is something Menchie is proud of, and probably can't help. During the pictorial, the 46-year-old entrepreneur fussed about everything, from proper lighting, to checking if every hair was in place via a standing mirror she had a helper place a few feet away, to making sure the bazaar merchandise was shown to best advantage. But the results, as in her bazaars, are picture-perfect. "I make sure I don't promise things I can't deliver."

Still, she concedes, the biggest secret to her success is "choosing a husband who believes women can and should pursue their careers. You need someone who will support you all the way!"

And so, Roger Mabanta does. The guy Menchie knew as The One on their very first double date is into real estate and financing, and holds office in the same Blue Ridge address that the couple calls home. "I believe my husband married me with the knowledge of the things I love to do," Menchie muses. "We may have different businesses, but being together is assuring enough."

Their children too have become enthusiastic bazaar goers, "mainly because bazaars bring on the spirit of Christmas," says daughter Nicola,18. Her siblings Franco, 20, and Clara, 13, would probably agree. After all these years, the novelty of shopping at bazaars has not worn off even for the Mabanta children. "That's because there's always something new every year," says Menchie, who discloses that some items might never be seen in any other outlet again "because the sellers and producers could be hobbyists who'd probably move on to other projects the following year."

Aside from getting one-of-a-kind gift items, shoppers also flock to bazaars because "there's never a last price," says Menchie. Haggling is accepted and expected. "Since the owners are often the sellers too, they have more discretion to lower the price depending on how well one can bargain." Some entrepreneurs are feeling out the market for the first time, so their pricing becomes very flexible depending on how well the shoppers respond.

Over the years, observes Menchie, Filipino shoppers have become younger (probably because of the energy needed to check out all those stalls), and more men have started filling up their gift list themselves. But food and novelty items have remained bestsellers. Liquor cakes are especially hot, and so are home accents and decor. "De-stressing products that help calm, relax and heal have become popular as well, especially candles that come in all scents and designs. Packaging matters," she adds. Still, she concedes, price is one decisive factor. Filipinos, she observes, want value for their hard-earned money and are happy to get any kind of bargain. "Items below P200 are fast sellers."

Menchie's bazaars have become showcases as well for celebrities to flaunt their business savvy just as hobbyists flex their creative muscles. Among the items in this year's Mabanta Bazaars are model Patty Betita's novelty dolls made of resin and dressed up in satin by no less than Patis Tesoro; Daphne Oseña's Japanese-inspired children's clothes, tea cups and pots; Angel Aquino's fashion accessories, and Pia Hontiveros' novelty and decorative candles.

Admittedly, the prices are far from those at corner *tiangges* (flea markets). Betita's dolls can cost up to P3,500 each, for instance, but Menchie says she has set her standards high, and personally inspects the product samples for quality. At the same time, she makes sure her exhibitors do not suffer unfair competition. "If one merchant sells the same goods that another has priced much lower, I make sure their stalls are miles apart. It's up to the shopper to compare prices and canvass before deciding which to buy."

In fact, Menchie adds, that is good, timely advice as most stallholders price their goods based on how much the market is willing to pay. Another piece of advice: shop early and avoid the last-minute rush. "In my experience, the last few hours before Christmas is panic time, when shoppers grab just about everything," she notes. "Impulse buying becomes the rule, something that merchants consider a blessing because their goods disappear in no time at all."

Starting early is advice she herself heeds in organizing her bazaars, to judge from all the streamers announcing this shopping extravaganza. Menchie's Christmas bazaars are in full bloom starting October and run through end of February, at the Philippine Stock Exchange Center in Ortigas, at the Makati Sports Club and at the MC Home Depot in Fort Bonifacio.

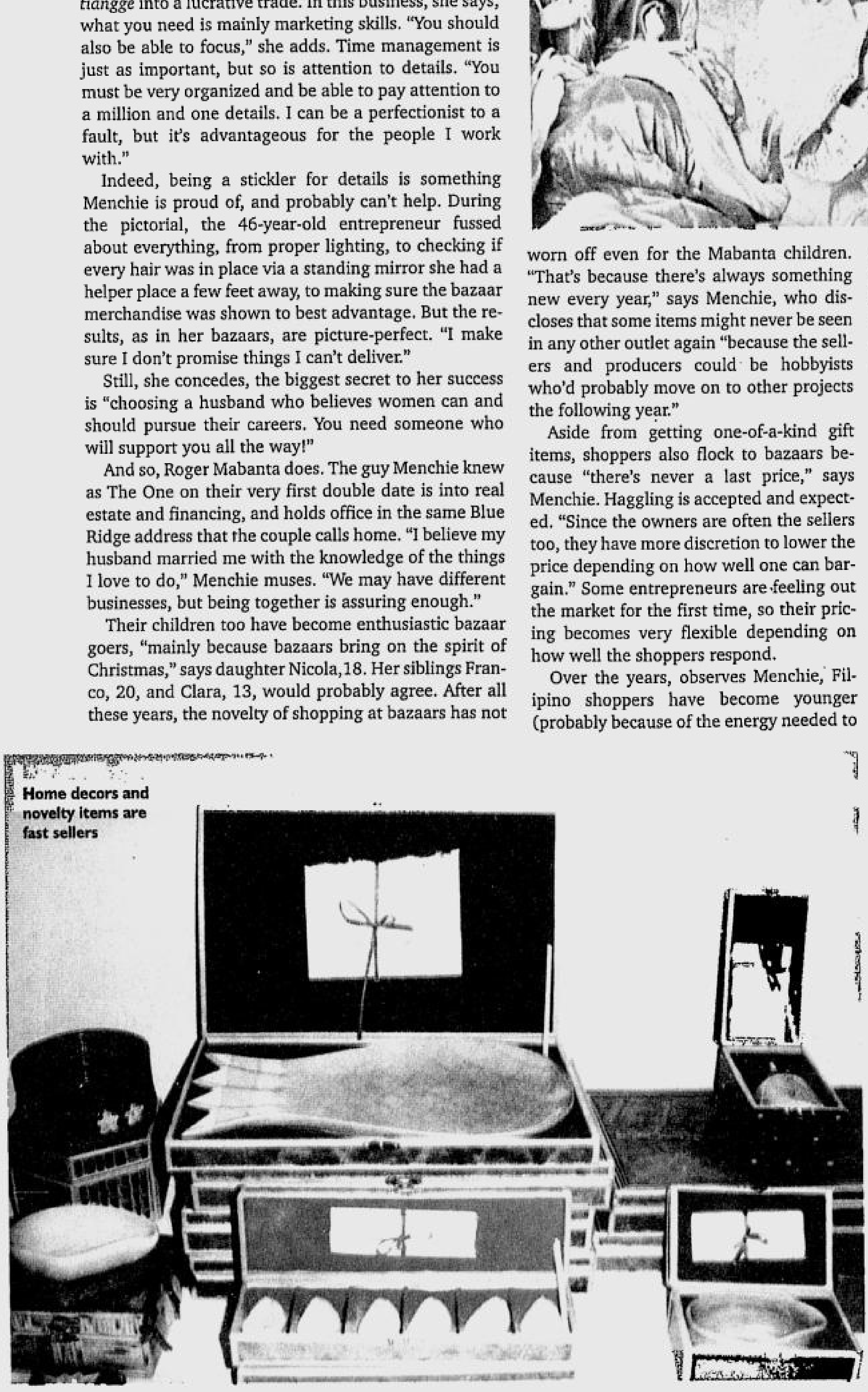
Which can only mean that Menchie's four landlines and cell phone are ringing nonstop these days, as she herself deals with the hundreds of merchants trying to get a stall, inspecting their product samples, confirming lease over space, promoting the bazaars and fixing the stalls' layout. It's a killer schedule, she admits, "but that's because I'm very hands-on." A typical day, says Menchie, starts and ends with prayers, a daily Mass ("You can't imagine the problems that crop up when you're dealing with hundreds of different people"), and the occasional glass of red wine she shares with good friends to toast another task-driven day. It is her only relaxation, she says.

But life, says Menchie, has been very satisfying. The bazaars give her "a great feeling of fulfillment," she says. "Work is my discipline. At the same time, I have the opportunity to help others, in this case, vendors who use the bazaars to launch their products and test the market. They pay a flat fee, which becomes some sort of advertising expense for them because of the follow-up calls and orders that they get after the bazaars."

So what's on this Bazaar Queen's personal gift-list?

"Nothing yet," Menchie says with a laugh. "I like discovering new things so I sometimes do last-minute shopping." Q

Menchie Mabanta Bazaars run at the PSE Center in Tektite, Ortigas on Dec. 17-19; at the Makati Sports Club on Dec. 7, 13 and 14; at the MC Home Depot at Fort Bonifacio Global City until Dec. 31, Jan. 3-31, and Feb. 2-28. Call 0917-5264812 or telefax 438-9974 for details.



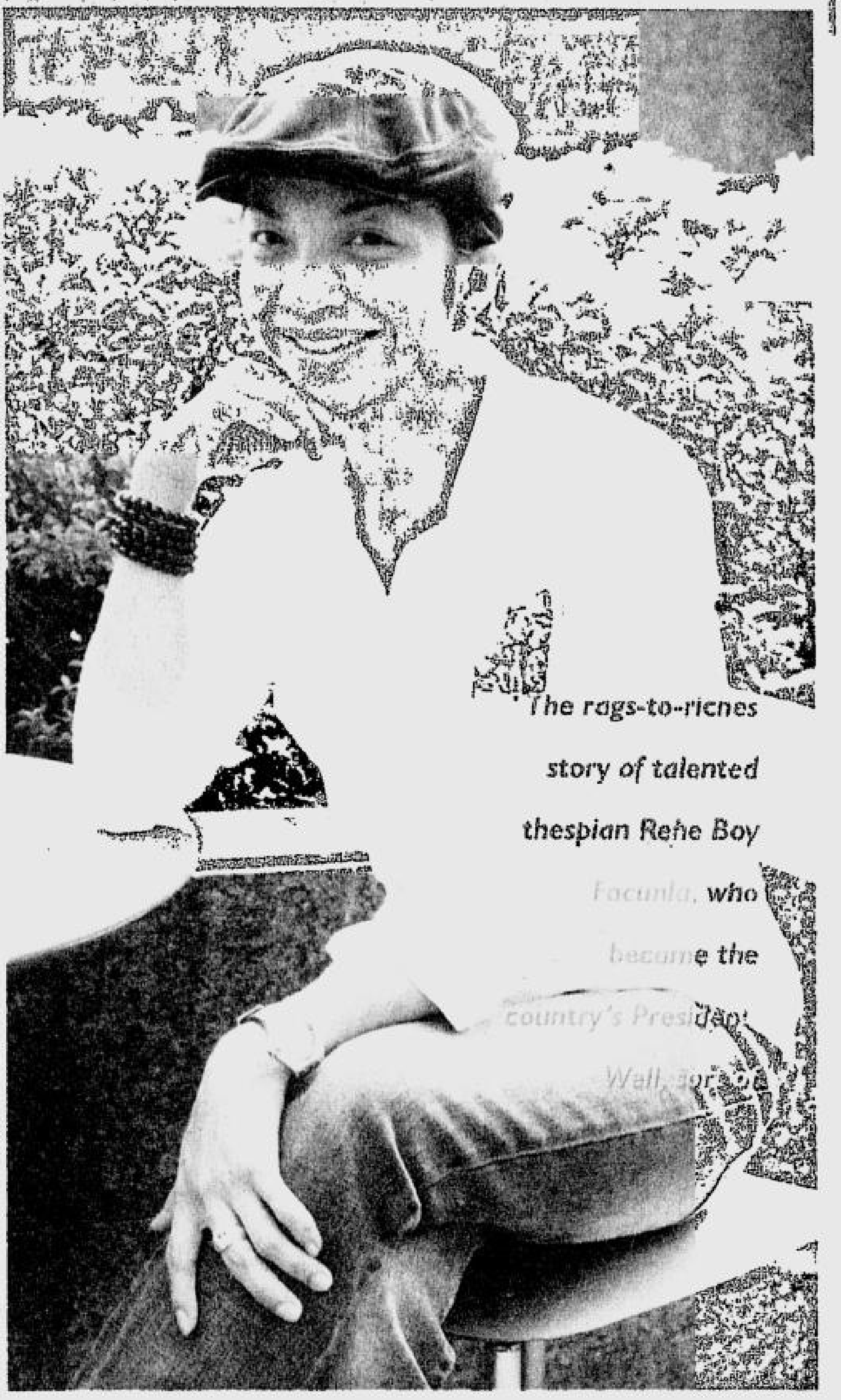
Home decors and novelty items are fast sellers

Celebrities

By Joy Rojas

Photographs By Roger Mangallo

Being Ate Glow



The rags-to-riches story of talented thespian Rene Boy Facunla, who became the country's President. Well, sort of.

IN the year that Rene Boy Facunla has been in show business, his fame has cut through social classes. Everybody knows him—from the street urchins ogling the stars as they leave the ABS-CBN compound, to the friendly *baristas* in Starbucks. In turn, the unassuming Facunla waves to the kids who call out to him, and graciously indulges in pleasantries before finally settling down for this interview. Life has sure been good since Facunla became President.

No, make that president impersonator.

Since perfecting his take on President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Facunla, or *Ate* Glow to his fans, has been all over the place. Aside from his regular TV shows on ABS-CBN ("OK Fine Whatever," "Sharon" and "Buttercup," where he stars as himself), he has appeared in the hit film "My First Romance" and has another one due for the filmfest this month. December is also when he releases his novelty album. Another movie is slated for screening in 2004. Thus far, the demand for his public appearances is high: TV host Christine Bersola asked him to host her bridal shower at Rustan's Essenses, and his last trip to Baguio saw him at the Ad Congress as well as the opening of the SM mall. Of course, Facunla's favorite event was meeting President GMA herself in "*Sagip Kabataan Laban sa Droga*," an anti-drug campaign geared towards the youth.

"*Maliit siya* (she's petite)," recalls the 5'5" *Ate* Glow of his close encounter with the 4'11" GMA. "She's also very dignified and serious. It was quite embarrassing to be better dressed than she was. I was in a fully beaded gown and she was in a plain blue shirt and slacks. That so far was the happiest event for me."

Success could not have come to someone more talented or deserving. Born to a retired policeman and his homemaker wife, Rene Boy was raised in a close-knit and happy household where everyone, from his eldest sister to his brothers before and after him, was a natural entertainer. This was a family that had seen hard times. At one point when all four kids were in school and both parents had fallen ill, Rene Boy helped make ends meet by tutoring elementary and high school students, writing poems for publication, giving dance lessons, and hosting everything from baptisms to debuts.

Comedy proved to be his wealth. In school, it was he who teachers and classmates chose to lead in prayers, dances and school plays. Popular among boys and girls ("Friend *ng bayan*," he coos), the jolly, likeable Rene Boy was also known for his spot-on impressions. "I think we all try to mimic people at one time or another," he says. "But it was nothing formal. Just for kicks, I would copy the way people walked and talked. But I never thought I would become a professional impersonator."

At the University of the Philippines, Facunla juggled his studies with performances for the group Samascom. Set to be launched in the annual variety show "Live Aids," which started in 2000, the promising thespian was again assigned the meatiest role—that of a gay observer in a satire which included impersonators of well-known government officials. Three days before the show, however, teachers trashed the sketch as it lacked such updated political milestones as former President Estrada's impeachment trial, Edsa Dos, and the installation of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as President. Facunla, who was already doing impressions of Nora Aunor and Jolina Magdangal, was tapped to portray GMA, a character he couldn't connect with at the start. "It was difficult copying her mannerisms and how she spoke. They had to cut my lines and provide me with an idiot board because I couldn't memorize my lines," he says.

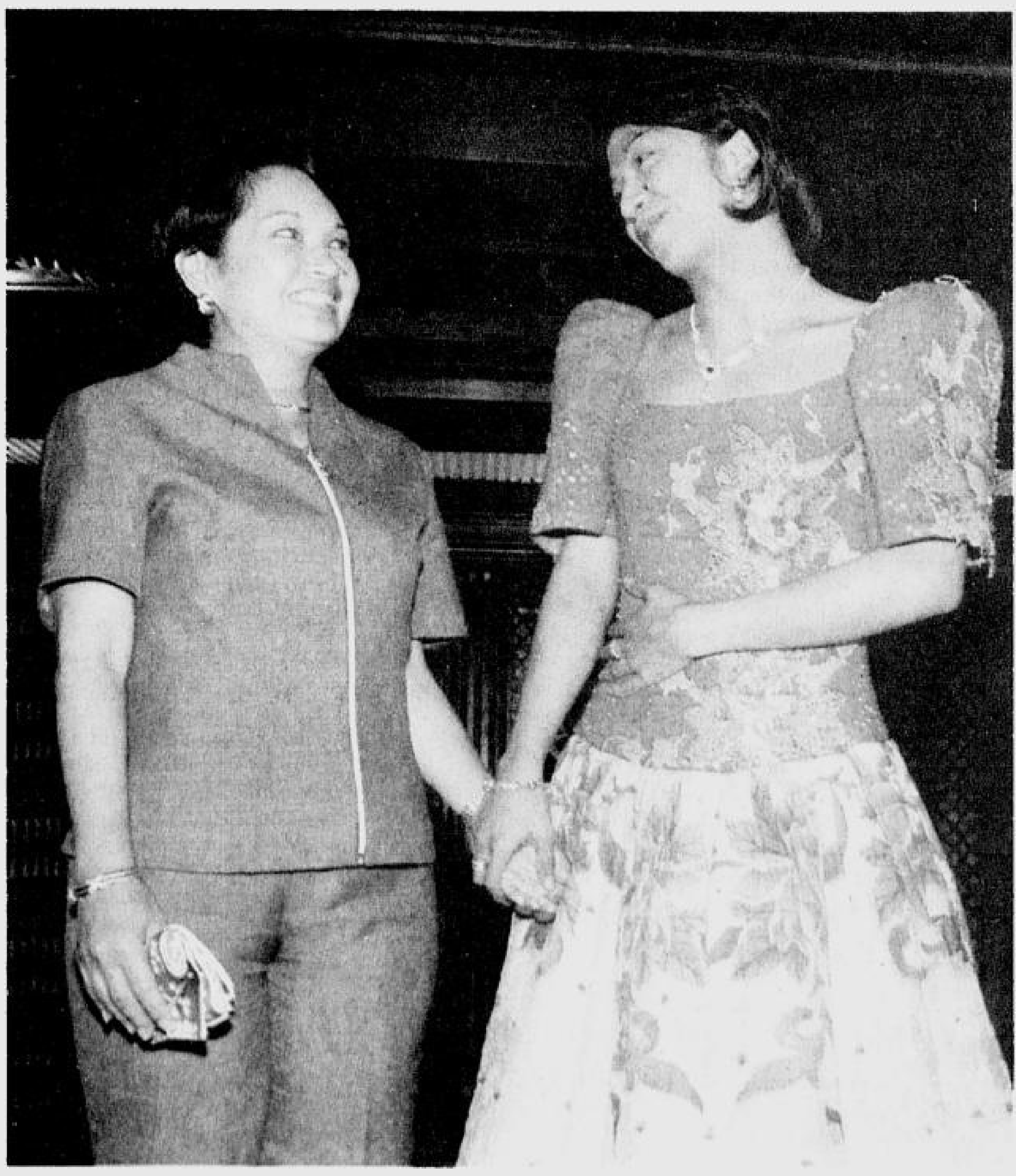
Neither could he get people to laugh during last-minute rehearsals. An emotional wreck on the eve of the show, he made a firm resolve ("I know that I have what it takes to be a star") and proceeded to ingest anything and everything GMA. He watched all the news on television, read all the papers he could get his hands on and practiced for hours in front of a mirror. The next day, Facunla (who was decked in a gown provided by his best friend's *lola*) braced himself as a blinding spotlight introduced him as the show's opening act. Suddenly, the audience roared in approval—and this was even before he uttered a word. "Everyone, myself included, was shocked that I actually looked like Gloria," he marvels. "It was Divine Intervention."

Not to mention genuine talent. Facunla (who can transform himself into *Ate* Glow in as little as five minutes) credits makeup and muscle control for allowing him to assume the President's persona. "Without makeup," he insists, "*hindi ko siya kamukha* (I don't look like her)." Perhaps, but people like what they see. Three years after playing *Ate* Glow in UP, the actor (who writes his own material) tested the critical waters of show business. His stint on ABC 5's "On Air" was the highest-rating episode of the show, as was his profile on the program "Pipol." Originally invited by GMA 7 to appear on its comedy "*Idol Ko Si Kap*" where he once guested, he eventually accepted ABS-CBN's persistent offer to join the giant network on condition that he keep flexible hours to focus on school. Today, Facunla, an honor student, has completed his minor in Philippine Literature and is a thesis shy of finishing his major in Film.

But for all the public's affirmations, it's GMA's vote that remains his biggest validation yet. "She said she likes watching me and that I register very well on TV," he says, beaming.

Now that Facunla has the President's quirks down pat, does he share her political sentiments as well? "I'm neither super- nor anti-GMA," says Facunla, who, at 22, will vote for the very first time in 2004. "But since she's our President, I think it's only right that we support her. We tend to blame her and the government for all the country's problems when we ourselves are to blame for some of the problems. Speaking as a citizen of the Philippines, I think we should ask ourselves what we're doing to make the country a better place. Most Filipinos see the government and its President as the source of its food, shelter and jobs, but I think the government's real responsibility is not to give us these basic needs but to provide us with ways on how to acquire them. That's what we Filipinos lack, discipline and education."

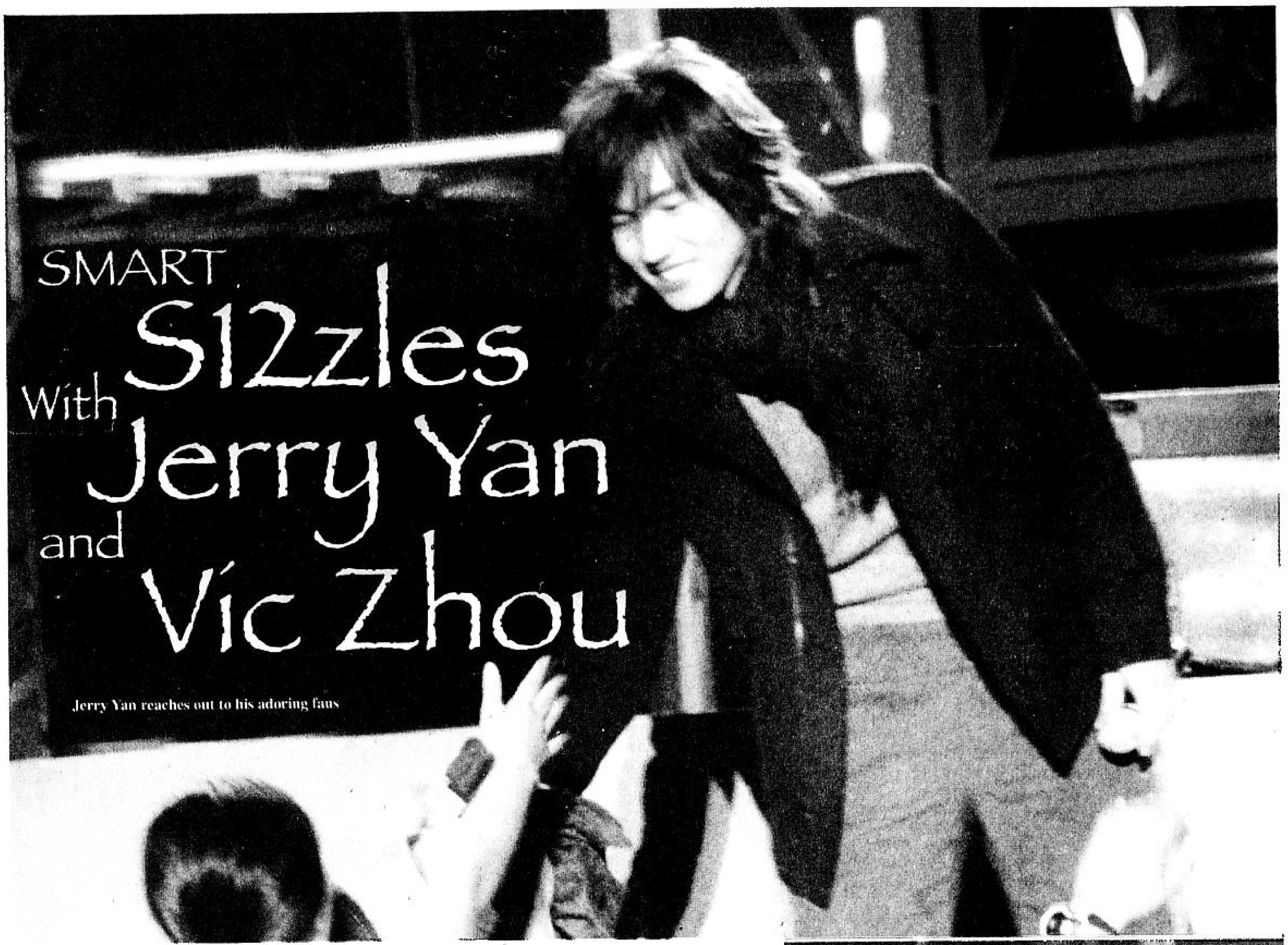
Unlike other entertainers, Facunla's future in showbiz somewhat hinges on what happens after May 2004. What's *Ate* Glow to do should *Ate* Glo cease to be in power? A whole bunch of things, as it turns out. Given his double degree, he sees himself directing films or carving a career in advertising. And his impressions don't start and end with *Ate* Glow: He can also do Ces Drilon, Loren Legarda, Maui Taylor, Aubrey Miles, and "*kung sinu-sino 'yung in.*" Having accepted the fact that nothing lasts forever, Facunla isn't one to wear his welcome down. Politicians could learn a thing or two from this hot young comedian, "If people don't like me after the elections, that's life," he shrugs. "I just need to move on."



MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Seeing double: GMA with doppelganger, *Ate* Glow

SMART S12zles With Jerry Yan and Víc Zhou



Jerry Yan reaches out to his adoring fans

Hot out of "Fired Up" in Baguio during the Ad Congress, Smart Buddy brings you another hot line up of acts as the Smart S12zles event tour continues to celebrate our 12 million subscribers! How do we top such stars as Martin Nievera, Rufa Mae Quinto and Parokya ni Edgar who made their way to Baguio?

Half of F4 sizzles in Manila

The Smart S12zles event tour continued at ABS-CBN's Happy 50 TV concert at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Headlining the event was half of F4, Jerry Yan and Vic Zhou! The two Chino lads on their first trip to the Philippines featured songs from Jerry Yan's forthcoming album and Vic Zhou's new album "Make A Wish" in an unforgettable performance. They were also accompanied by fellow Meteor Garden stars Barbie and Dee Xu. All in all, it was an energy-packed event of sounds and lights; fans heartily sang along with the four's favorite songs. A host of other stars graced the stage including Smart Buddy's perennially cute and bubbly Heart Evangelista singing and smiling for her lucky Buddys. Did you catch it?

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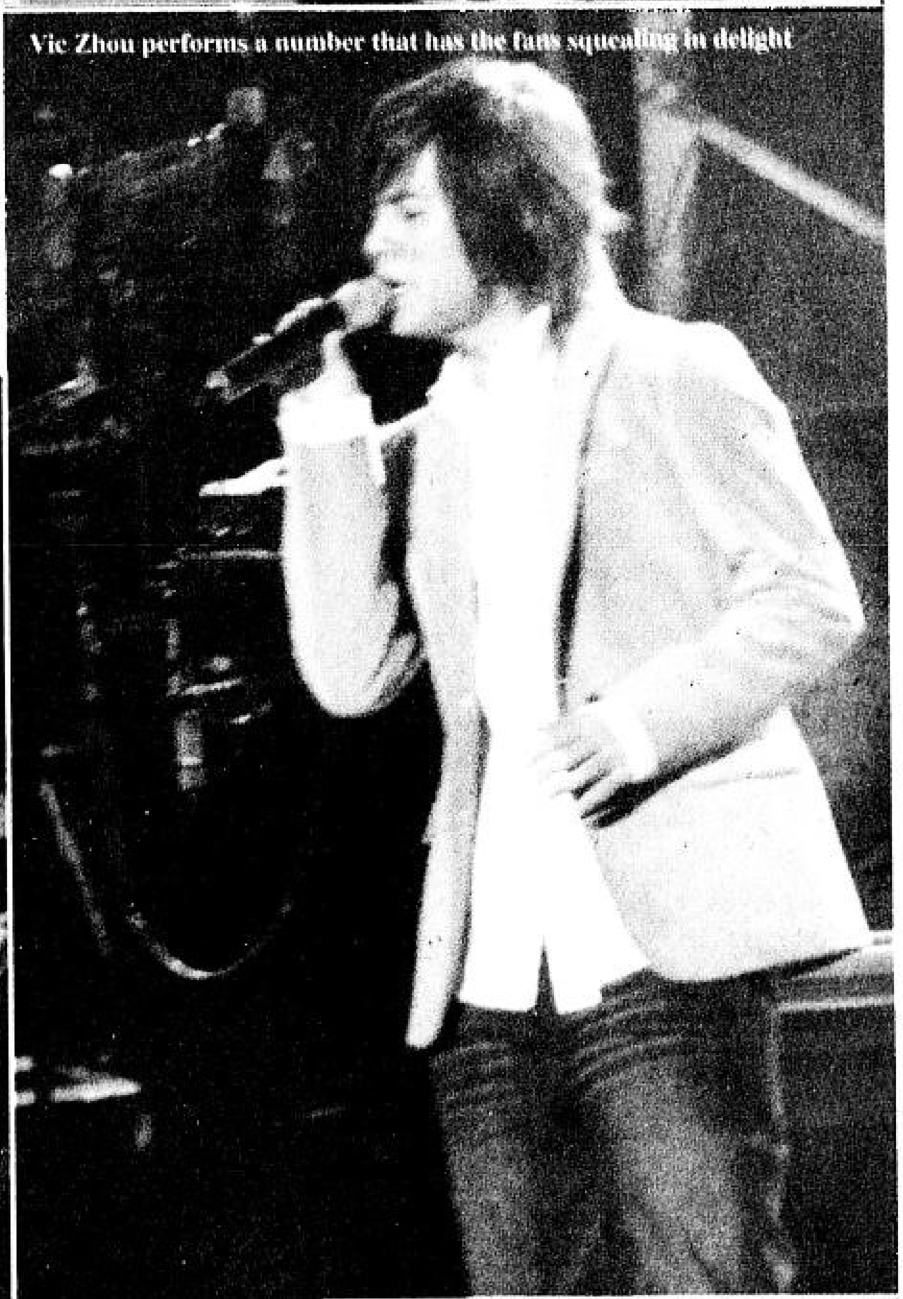
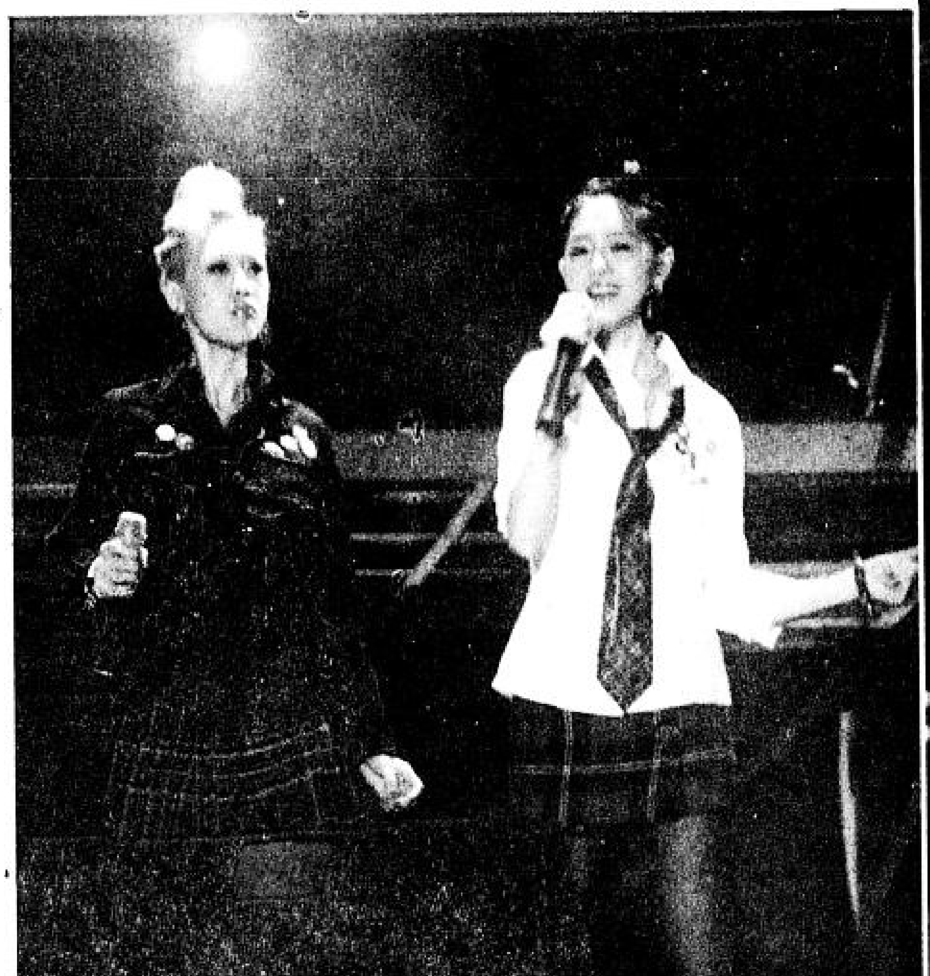


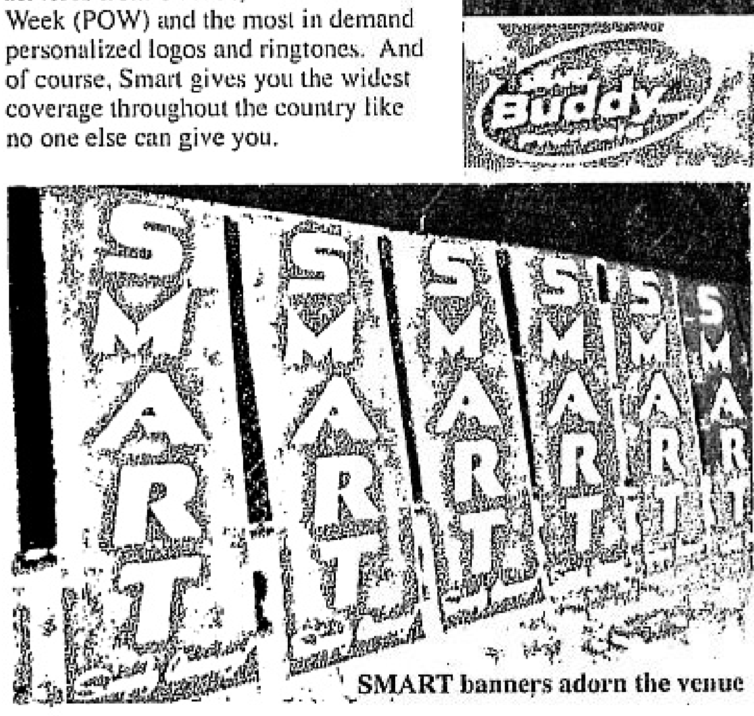
Vic Zhou performs a number that has the fans squealing in delight



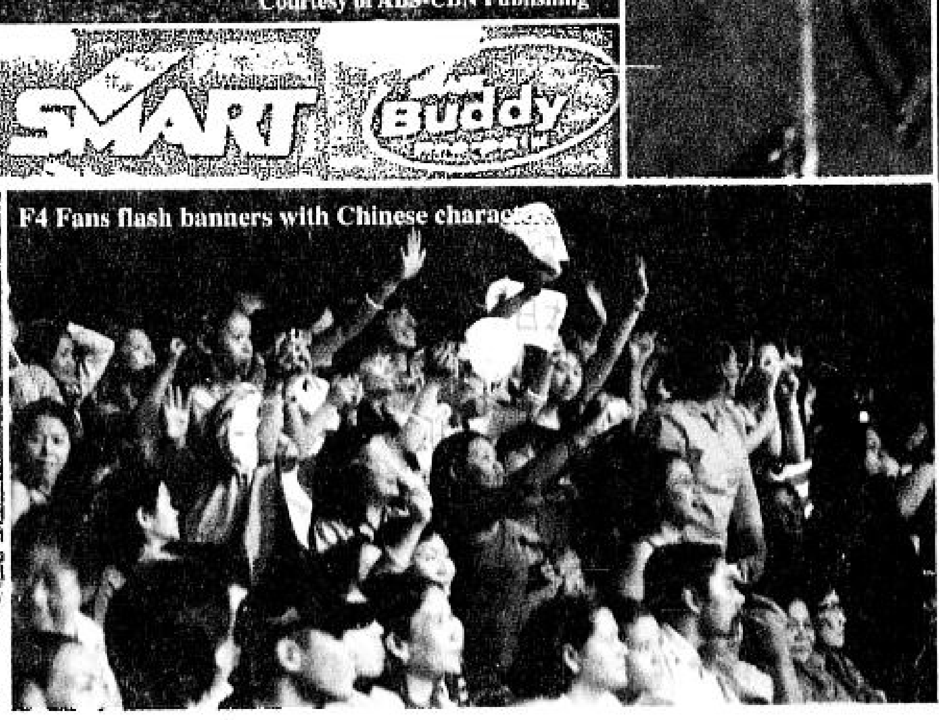
Meteor Garden co-stars Barbie & Dee Xu make a special appearance

Courtesy of ABS-CBN Publishing

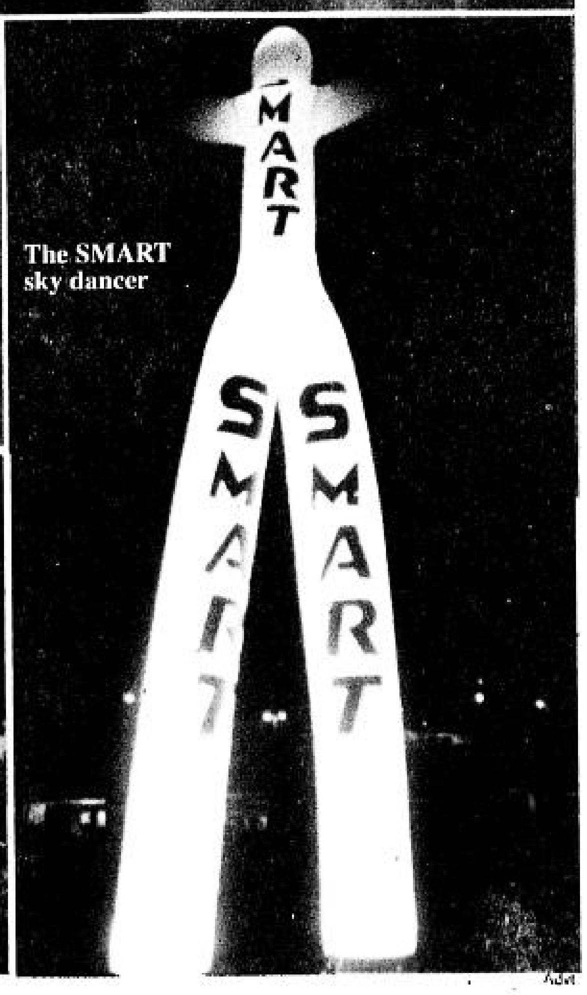
Buddy SMART Buddy



SMART banners adorn the venue



F4 Fans flash banners with Chinese charac



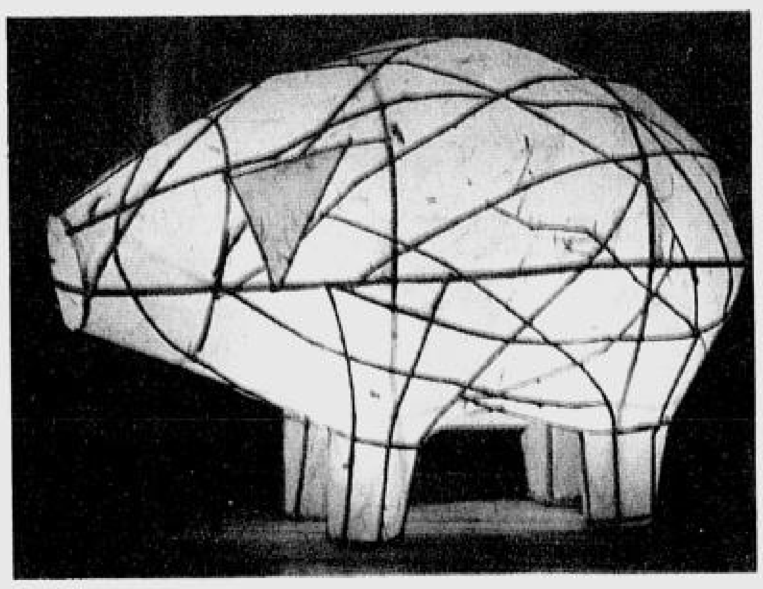
The SMART sky dancer

Artwatch

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Eddie Boy Escudero

Bamboo Dancers

Designing women: Tan (left) and Regalado on site. Below, Regalado's pig-shaped lantern



In a new installation exhibit, architect Ning Encarnacion-Tan champions the cause of the lowly bamboo as ideal construction material

SOME things you change, some things change you. A lifetime's journey can begin with the most ordinary things.

In 1991, architect Rosario Encarnacion Tan decided to build herself and her husband Juju, a development specialist, their first house. She decided to build it out of bamboo. The material had intrigued her since her student days at the UP College of Architecture, where she had studied traditional Filipino houses, including the quintessential Filipino dwelling, the *bahay kubo* (nipa hut).

Her interest was further kindled when she went to work for Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa, who has built a successful architecture practice while championing Filipino design, including the extensive use of bamboo and other indigenous materials.

Some of this enthusiasm for the rude materials of the poor—nipa, anahaw and bamboo—stayed with her even after she struck out on her own. Bamboo is almost synonymous with Asia, its pliant strength a metaphor for the supposed Asian qualities of flexibility and resilience. But it is also a symbol of a quaint rustic past that most people are rushing to leave behind for a more modern, even futuristic lifestyle.

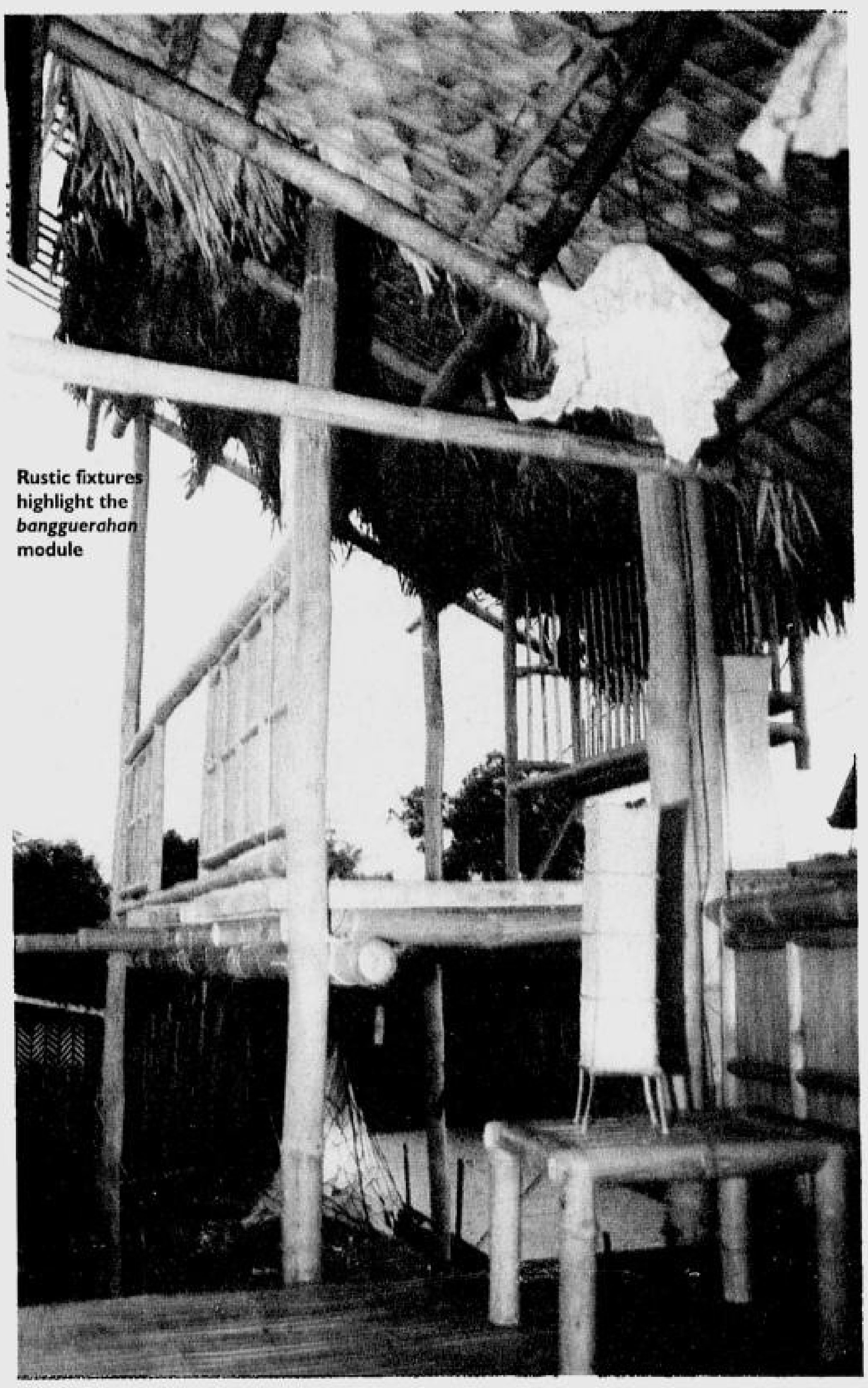
But to choose bamboo is to swim against the tide. Almost immediately, Tan met with opposition. Friends discouraged her from going through with her plans, saying that bamboo was prone to termites and *bukbok* (borers). Thieves could easily break into the house, they warned. If a fire broke out, the house would be reduced to ashes. And what about the rains and the seasonal typhoons?

Despite these warnings, Tan went ahead. It took her seven years to finish the house (her budget was limited) but the process taught her a great deal about what bamboo can be, given the proper treatment. "Bamboo has the tensile strength of steel and the compressive strength of concrete," says Tan. Since then, she has built more than 10 distinctive homes for other clients making extensive use of bamboo, some costing as much as P3 million.

For the 47-year-old Tan, getting into bamboo architecture was only the natural outcome of a life spent searching for alternatives. Both she and her husband are long-time members of the Zen Center Philippines, a group devoted to meditation and spirituality affiliated with the Sanbo Kyodan school of Zen based in Kamakura, Japan. Although she has been practicing for more than 20 years and regularly attends intensive three- and five-day meditation retreats, she admits she still has to make that first breakthrough to enlightenment known as *kensho*, or insight.

Tan also decided to focus her design practice on bamboo architecture and low-cost housing alternatives, forgoing more lucrative projects. "You won't get rich doing vernacular architecture, but this is a choice I've made," she says. "It's a good thing my husband has an income."

More recently, the couple's involvement in the sustainable development movement prompted another drastic change: relocating to Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya in Northeastern Luzon. "We wanted to be in an area where there is a lot of environmental activity going on," she explains. Nestled at the junction of three mountain ranges, Bayombong is a university town with several local government and NGO initiatives for preserving forested areas and natural resources.



Rustic fixtures highlight the *bangguerahan* module

Tan is currently teaching vernacular architecture at St. Mary's University, a college run by a religious order in Bayombong. The Tans have also purchased some land where they intend to build their next bamboo house.

In the meantime, however, their efforts are focused on promoting more local interest in bamboo architecture. Traditional Asian cultures—the Chinese, the Japanese, the Balinese and our indigenous ancestors—knew the technology of bamboo, but modern architects are just beginning to rediscover this forgotten knowledge.

"We're doing gymnastics with this material," she says. But only because she's done the research and development. To begin with, she says, there are about 123 species of bamboo in the Philippines. The most common—*kawayang tinik*—is also the best for building. Its dimensions, strength and the length of the poles make it ideal for construction.

The real challenge is in shaping the material. Traditionally, Filipino builders have used the entire poles, or halved them, cut them into slats, or flattened the cylinders to make tiles. Nowadays, bamboo is even being laminated into "plyboo."

Bamboo can also be mixed with more conventional materials. It is, for instance, strong enough to support a concrete and tile overlay in a bathroom. In some cases, a structural frame of steel and concrete can be a base for bamboo floors and walls for a hybrid design that combines the best of both worlds.

Just how far Tan has come in her journey along the path of bamboo can be seen in "The Bamboo Advantage," an exhibit which opened last Nov. 23 at the Pinto Gallery. The exhibit highlights Tan's modular bamboo spaces, together with a selection of lamps made of bamboo and paper by Tan's friend and frequent collaborator, Wendy Fernando Regalado.

Regalado, who is also an architect, runs a design and construction business with her husband. She got into lamps, she says, in order to keep her workers busy with materials that were close to hand.

The Pinto Gallery exhibit was prompted by the Tans' recent move to Bayombong. "Modular architecture has been with us for hundreds of years," she explains. "The *bahay kubo* was modular. You could easily dismantle it or move the entire house." Similarly, the move prompted her to think about a modular house that could easily be taken apart and rebuilt somewhere else, or reconfigured to suit the owner's taste, or expanded to meet the needs of a growing family.

"I realized that with today's mobile lifestyle, you need a modular, knock-down system that you can put up anywhere you want to live," she says.

Tan's modular design revolves around the use of bamboo panels of fixed size, which can be configured in a number of ways to construct floors, walls or entire rooms. "We put in about five times the effort we put into our first bamboo house, because in a fixed house, you already know what to do. But this is such an experiment."

To enhance the structure, Tan also drew on the work of a number of artisans and craftsmen. Particularly striking are Joel Ajero's wrought iron braces, which are fashioned in the shape of tree branches.

"This exhibit shows what bamboo can be," says Tan. "It's an experiment, but we know it works because we can wrap it up and put it up anywhere. We know how it will stand."

Because of the painstaking hand-crafting involved, the present modular house is not exactly low-cost, says Tan. In fact, including research and development costs, the current house on exhibit costs around P2 million.

Surprisingly, the greatest resistance to bamboo is found among the middle classes, says Tan. The wealthy can afford to build second houses or rest homes of bamboo, and for the rural poor, bamboo is still a cheap, readily available material.

But Tan is counting on the Filipino's deeply-ingrained affinity for the *bahay kubo*. Today's Filipinos may live in structures of concrete, glass and steel, but they feel most relaxed and at peace with themselves when they are surrounded by nipa and bamboo and can feel the summer breeze on their faces.

Pinto Gallery is at 1 Sierra Madre Road, Grand Heights Subdivision, Antipolo. (In front of Ynares Stadium.) Tel. 697-1015. The exhibit runs until Jan. 25, 2004.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Preparing the Way for the Son

Go and make peace with your wife, kick every toxic substance out your system, pick up the shovel without delay, and start the 'road-building'

DARIO, a young man, had a dream. His dream was to become a barangay chairman "who can make a difference," he said. "I also want to become a husband and a father 'with a difference!'"

"What can you say about that dream, Father?" he asked me 30 years ago.

"Well, tell your father about your dream, Dario," I told him. "You must together prepare the way by making a difference too in your life right now."

I was thinking of *Mang* Danny, the father of this young dreamer, who was then separated from his wife. He also abuses substance like his father did, and blames his dead father now for not having prepared the way for his coming!

In today's Gospel (Lk. 3:1-6), John the Baptist, quoting the Prophet Isaiah, said, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

It you were Dario, and you asked me what you should do to prepare for the coming of your son, now six months in the womb of your separated wife, I would tell you to first go and make peace with your wife, kick every toxic substance out your system, pick up the shovel without delay, and start the "road-building" mentioned in today's Gospel—to prepare the way for the son—your son.

CMY Christmas Calendar

December 7 and 14

2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent

8:30 a.m. Mass at 103 Cordillera Street, SMH, Quezon City

December 19, Friday

3 in the afternoon: A Birthday Party with the street-based poor (ERPS is 71!)

December 21

4th Advent Sunday Mass

5 p.m. at 103 Cordillera St., SMH, Quezon City

7 in the evening

The CMY In-House and Out-of-House-Communities invite you to a front yard concert of Christmas carols after the Mass while you partake of our family meal. Please bring white or green or red colored vigil lamps so we can spread them around to light the yard. Leave them on a table at the gate as you enter.

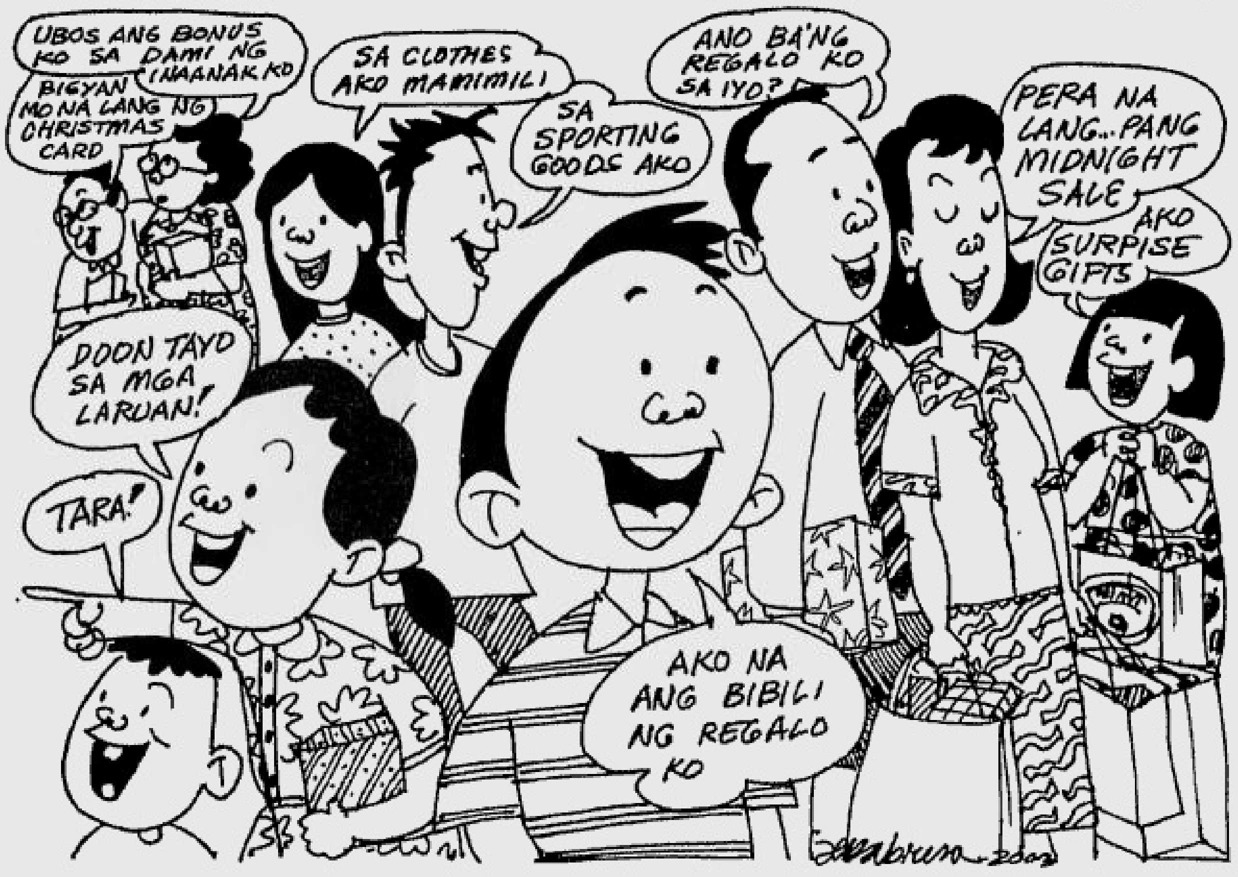
Since our gift-giving to the needy is on December 19, Friday, you may still bring in your donation before December 12.

We need rice, sugar, milk, coffee, canned foods, toiletries, rubber slippers for children and adults, usable clothing for men, women and children, towels, toys, candies for children. Please read The Word (**SIM**, 16 November, 2003).

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

X'mas Shopping


UBOS ANG BONUS KO SA DAMI NG INAANAK KO
BIGYAN MO NA LANG NG CHRISTMAS CARD
SA CLOTHES AKO MAMIMILI
SA SPORTING GOODS AKO
ANO BA'NG REGALO KO SA IYO?
PERA NA LANG... PANG MIDNIGHT SALE
AKO SURPISE GIFTS
DOON TAYO SA MGA LARUAN!
TARA!
AKO NA ANG BIBILI NG REGALO KO
Abrera 2003

This Week

Art

Gestalt, a two-man exhibit of Christina Quisumbing and Popo San Pascual at the Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila until Dec. 13.

All Creatures Great & Small features Jun Martinez's 13 watercolor paintings showcasing his penchant for childhood portraits, until Dec. 12 at Metro Gallery, 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan.

The Agony and Ecstasy of Saint Eroica, a photo exhibit by Nelz Agustin at the 3/F Lobby, Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, until Dec. 13.

Antonio Austria is holding a solo exhibit of still lifes, genre scenes and human figures at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Dec. 14.

Raga-Ak: Black Artists in Asia, an exhibit showcasing the works of Nunelucio Alvarado, Dennis Ascalon and Charlie Co, until Dec. 15 at the SM Art Center, SM Megamall Building A.

Strings and Things, Lina Llaguno Ciani's series of oil on canvas depicting the artist's personal selection of everyday objects, until Dec. 15 at Galleria Duemila, SM Megamall.

Music

De Kutsilyo, De Almasen, a concert headlined by Joey Ayala, Cookie Chua and other artists to commemorate "A Day Against Child Trafficking" on Dec. 12, 7 p.m. at the Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel in Intramuros, Manila. Admission is free.

The Life Gospel Church is producing a **Christmas cantata, *Diyata't Isang Sanggol*** written by Melba Maggay, a musical and drama presentation with an evangelistic theme. Performances are on Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21, 7 p.m. at the Life Gospel Church, 9 Masikap St., Diliman, QC. Free admission.

Atbp

There will be a tiangge of books, magazines, CDs today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Alfredo's on T. Morato and Scout Lazcanom QC. Billed as ***Parada ng mga Aklat atbp. Alay kay* Jose Villa Panganiban**, the commemorative book fair is co-sponsored with UST Philets Foundation (tel. 928-5117).

X-manila

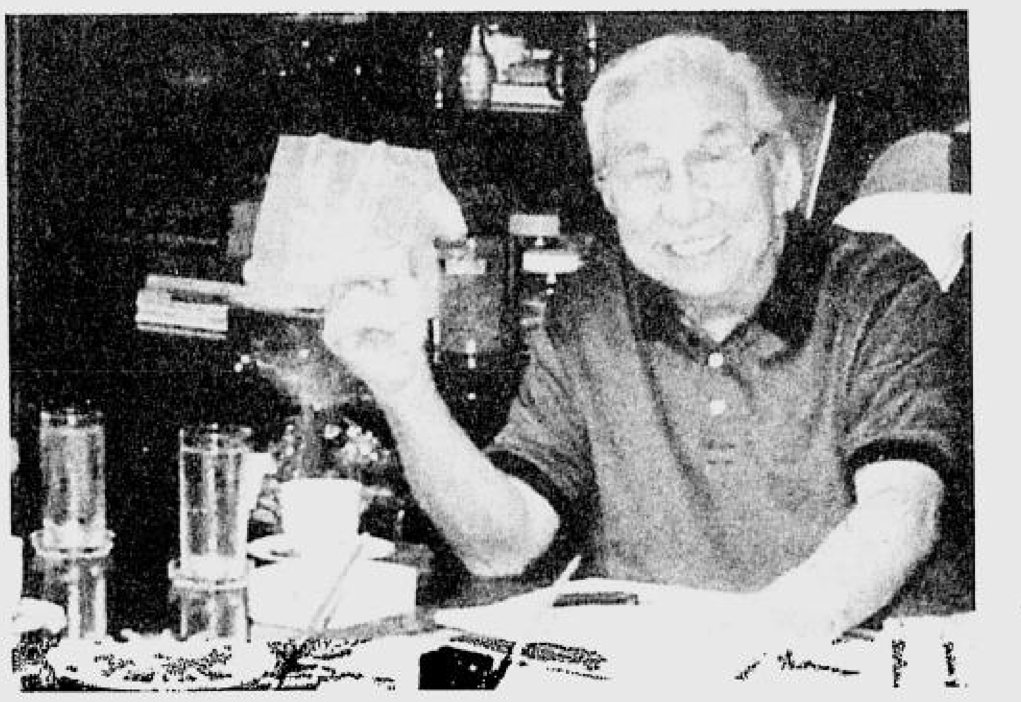
The **Ateneo de San Pablo Alumni Foundation Inc.** will hold its First Open Golf Tournament on Dec. 12 at Mount Malarayat Golf and COuntry Club, Lipa City. Proceeds from the event will be used for the Foundation's monthly medical and dental mission. For inquiries, call Tony Roño (049) 562-3793; Romy Robielos (049) 562-0773; Raffy Mendoza (049) 561-1258 and Mike Alcantara (02) 869-2382.

In Memoriam

By Mike Flores

Tuesdays (and More Days) with the Chairman

As pioneering Filipino adman Totoy Avellana goes off to that great ad agency in the sky, a former disciple remembers his mentor



I COULD almost hear him reading out loud—with all the inflections, pauses and dynamics of a seasoned orator—excerpts from "Tuesdays with Morrie":

"The last class of my old professor's life took place once a week in his house, by the window in the study where he could watch a small hibiscus plant shed its pink leaves. The class met on Tuesdays. It began after breakfast. The subject was The Meaning of Life. It was taught from experience.

No grades were given, but there were oral exams each week...

No books were required, yet many topics were covered, including love, work, community, family, aging, forgiveness and finally, death. The last lecture was brief, only a few words.

A funeral was held in lieu of graduation.

Although no final exam was given, you were expected to produce one long paper on what was learned. That paper is presented here.

The last class of my old professor's life had only one student.

I was the student."

I was looking at a portrait of Totoy Avellana. But I could just as well have been in his room, sitting across his massive hardwood table, listening to him endorse the book to me and a bunch of other young guys in the firm. No, he wasn't selling it. He was merely sharing with us how much he enjoyed reading it. But it was the best damn sharing I've ever witnessed!

Such are my memories of Chairman Totoy. In the three fleeting years that I worked for him, I was a regular audience to his stories, his jokes, his ideas. We were a big group back then—some eight souls or so. Through mugs of coffee, a couple of snacks, and clouds of first- and second-hand smoke, we would listen to countless anecdotes from his 70-plus years on this earth. At times, he would go even further back—to the days of his parents. My legs would turn numb from all the sitting; my chest would tighten from all the caffeine and smoke. But my mind would always stay alert, my eyes wide open. For in his words, there was always so much insight and wisdom to be mined. It was up to me—and everyone else present—to find it.

Slowly, the audience grew thin. We moved from a conference table big enough to seat some 15 heads, to his personal desk—with a chair on each side, and a three-seat couch opposite.

And then there was one.

As my contemporaries moved on to other pursuits, I found myself alone in the Chairman sessions. At the end of a long working day, his secretary would come up to my door. The sight of her face was enough to tell me that I should cancel my plans for the evening. It wasn't the end of my day. It was the start of an enlightening evening of coffee, smokes and stories.

He talked of filmmaking, of wars and revolutions, of Jesuit educators, of stage plays and of collegiate athletics, and of canteen food. I talked of childhood games, of my parents, of friends who've come and gone. I watched the ashen tip of his cigarette grow longer and longer, and eventually collapse and fall to the tabletop—missing the ashtray by miles, because he was too engrossed in his narration to remember that he had a stick between his fingers. Mostly, though, I just listened. And I learned about people, about the world, about life. Sitting on that chair, in that room, I was attending Morrie's last class.

Then came my time to go. In a fit of utter stupidity, I had intended to keep my resignation unknown to him, and planned to sign out on the office logbook for the last time without having to say goodbye to him. But it wasn't to be. Instead, I promised Chairman, more than once, that I would keep in touch—drop by for coffee every now and then.

I never did.

One year after that, on a late night some weeks ago, I felt an uncanny, surreal parallelism between my relationship with Chairman and the story of "Tuesdays with Morrie"—with one heartbreaking difference: I would never again have the chance to make good on my promise. It was the night when Totoy Avellana was summoned for an eternal audience with the Supreme Chairman.

At the wake stood a portrait of him wearing the most jovial smile, in a most congenial gesture—affectionately pointing a finger at me, as if to say "Hey! You finally came." In my mind, I could only answer: "Drop by my thoughts once in a while, won't you, Mr. Chairman?"

MARK FLORES had a decade-long career in advertising, with a stint for Avellana & Associates, Inc. under the chairmanship of Jose "Totoy" Avellana. He is now a freelance writer and advertising consultant

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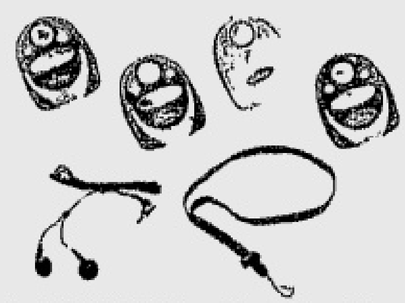

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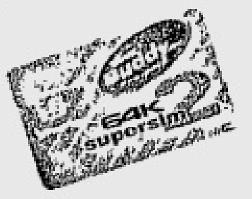

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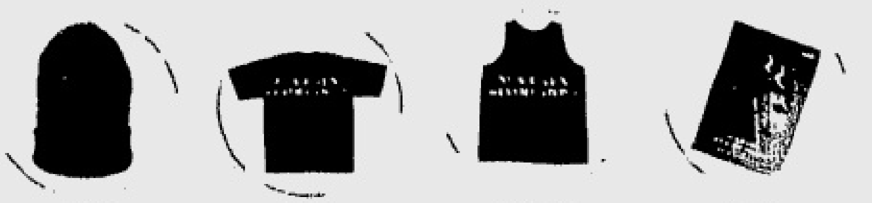

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Alabang Town Center *G/F, Old Wing between PCX & Mendrez*

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SM Baguio *LGF, in front of staircase between Island Souvenirs & Freshaire*
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JC Enterprises, Santiago *Entrance gate*
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SM Sucat *UGF, between Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo*
SM North Edsa** *City Center, G/F Centermall (Sylvia Santos)*
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SM Lucena *G/F, in front of Astrovision*
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